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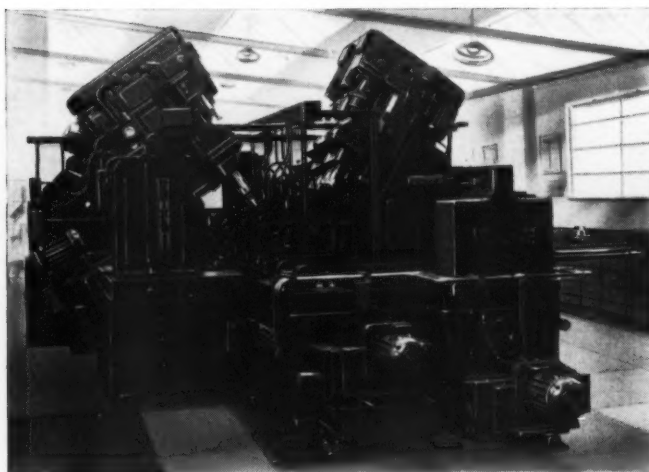
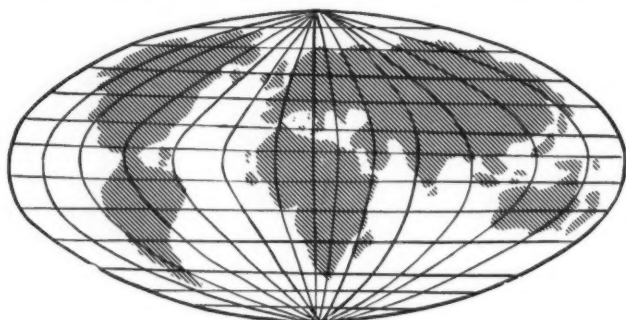
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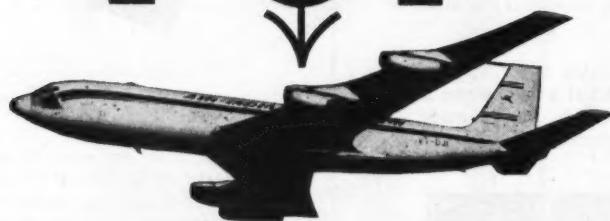
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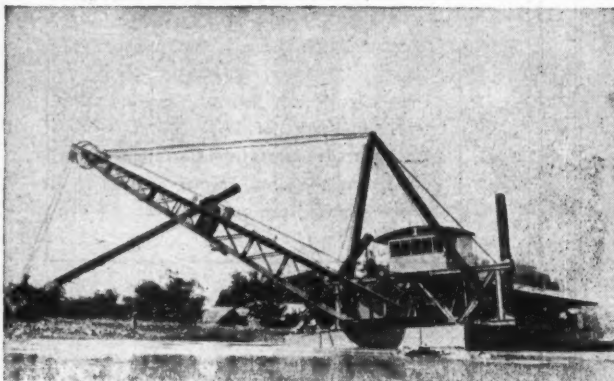
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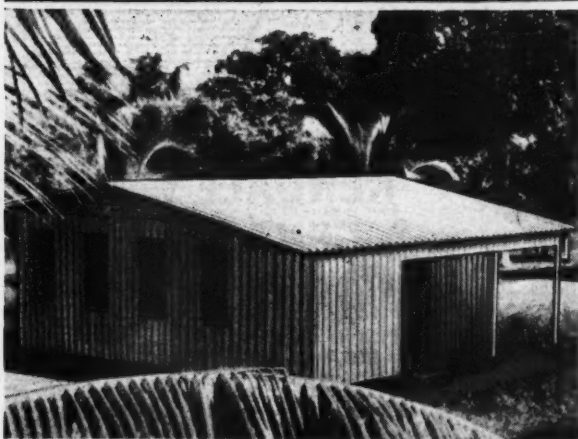
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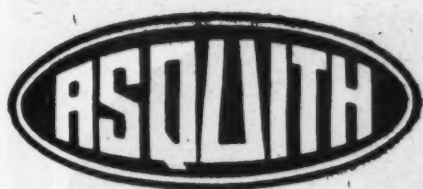
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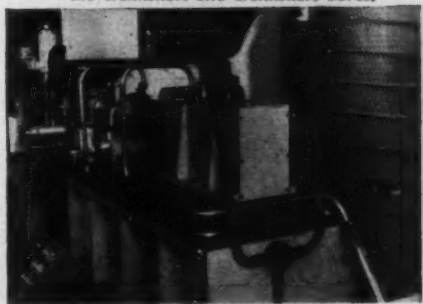


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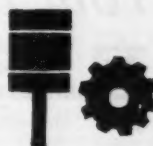


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*The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions
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A Commonwealth Charter

IT is an axiom of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference, at its periodical meetings in London, not to discuss the internal affairs of individual member countries. Because the views of the participants are so widely diverse on questions of political belief, foreign policy, and even to some extent on economic policy, it is sometimes difficult to understand what they find to talk about. The opportunity for a frank exchange of views between the Ministers on world affairs, untrammelled by the formalities of external affairs departments, is undoubtedly useful, but from the dreary communique issued at the end of each conference it would be fair to conclude that the long hours together have been spent in playing bridge, chess or tiddlywinks. The communique is a prime example of "hear nothing, see nothing, speak nothing," and for the aspiring civil service applicant it is an object lesson in the use of platitudes. Will it be, or can it be, the same this time, now that Dr. Verwoerd has thrown an outsize spanner into the Commonwealth machinery?

Events in South Africa have so inflamed feelings throughout the world that it is hard to imagine the Prime Ministers, meeting at 10 Downing Street this month, deliberately shelving the most burning question yet to confront them. The cornerstone of the Commonwealth, is its multi-racial aspect, highlighted by the fact that five of the Prime Ministers are coloured. The realisation that all these five—Ayub Khan, Nehru, Tunku Rahman, Senanayake, and Nkrumah—would have to carry pass books if the Prime Ministers Conference were held in Cape Town, borders on the incredible.

It is easy to say in circumstances such as these that South Africa should be ejected from the Commonwealth. But that kind of action would, at a stroke, dispossess not only the racist Afrikaner from whatever advantages membership of the Commonwealth has to offer, but also 11 million suffering Africans, and those non-Africans opposed to *apartheid*. When groups of people are the victims of injustice and are denied decent human treatment, as in Hitler's Germany, those outside who feel strongly are in no position to do anything about it. South Africa's membership of the Commonwealth—which even the Nationalist Party leaders have said they value—means that at least a

moral pressure can be brought to bear on the Government.

The position then is that it would be extremely unwise, and unfair to the Africans and the liberal elements, to contemplate removing South Africa from the Commonwealth, but at the same time it will be unethical for the Prime Ministers Conference to become, as the Canadian Prime Minister has recently put it, the judge and jury of the conduct of member nations. But can nothing be done? If the Commonwealth does not mean racial equality, then it means nothing; and if exchanges can take place between its leading statesmen without the erring member being taken to task, then the Commonwealth concept is as good as dead.

There is, however, one course the Prime Ministers Conference can take without either discussing the internal affairs of South Africa, or openly challenging the Cape Town Government. It is a course we strongly urge the Conference to take, for it should commend itself not only to the Asian members, but to most of the others as well. The time has come for the Prime Ministers to draft and later sign a Commonwealth charter, which should take the form of a declaration that all citizens of the Commonwealth are guaranteed racial equality and political freedom. Such a document must be unequivocal and forthright, and in detail might lay down the fundamental human rights a citizen of the Commonwealth can expect. Statements on the South African situation made recently by Tunku Rahman, Mr. Nash of New Zealand, and Mr. Nehru indicate that they would be prepared to sign such a charter.

Nothing could do the Commonwealth more good than to bring the whole question of racial equality out into the open. Human rights are an essential part of the United Nations Charter, but political issues have, over the years, tended to obscure them. In the Commonwealth political issues are eschewed, so that the question of human rights of its citizens can become a paramount consideration in exchanges between member governments. No one can deny that the moment of crisis in Commonwealth relations has arrived and everyone feels that something must be done, some gesture made. A Charter of Commonwealth membership could be that gesture so that the partnership of a number of nations can mean something more than simply economic preference—which is all it seems to mean now.

Comment

Twosome in Delhi

MR. CHOU EN-LAI'S visit to New Delhi, April 19 to 26, is certain to remain a subject of debate in India long after its conclusion. Whether good relations between India and China can be re-established at short notice, overcoming the friction and misunderstandings of the frontier disputes, remains to be seen. From the middle of February when Chou first accepted Nehru's invitation, to the moment of his landing at Palam airport, Indian opinion has swung back and forth between hope and despondency. Even the External Affairs Ministry was uncertain whether Chou wanted to argue over every foot of the 2,200-mile long frontier, or be prepared seriously to seek to regain Nehru's confidence. At the moment of writing nothing was known except the fact of Chou's safe arrival in Delhi.

Though most Indians are insistent about their rights and want Mr. Nehru to be quite unyielding on what they regard as the proper frontier of their country, the Prime Minister himself is known to be more concerned to take stock of China's present attitude towards India. He was more shocked by what he himself described as China's "breaking of faith" with India and the *panch shila* agreement than by the incidents and incursions over the frontier. His statement that he was willing to talk with Chou but would not negotiate—presumably for as long as Chinese forces continue to occupy Indian territory—can only mean that he wants first to be satisfied about the re-establishment of a dependable mutual confidence between the two countries.

The latest Chinese Note, delivered in Delhi on April 14, stoutly maintained that "the entire Sino-Indian boundary has never been formally delimited and there is no boundary treaty or agreement between China and India". It is a forthright denial of all that has gone before between the old China, Tibet and British-ruled India. Indian comment recalls that it is well-known tactics in international bargaining to stake one's claims as high as possible, but declares this unsuitable in the present case. On the basis of China's claims, any compromise would appear as a ceding of territory by India while China merely foregoes some of her wider claims.

In spite of China's claim to Everest (disclosed by the Nepalese) which created deep resentment and with it a serious rebuff to hopes of a speedy agreement between India and China, there are many in India eager to revive at the earliest the *Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai* atmosphere, but in general Indians fear it will take quite a long time. China's prompt and satisfactory settlement of disputes with Indonesia, Burma and Nepal have not removed all their doubts, hesitations, and loss of confidence. Even after agreement on the frontiers has been reached, as no doubt it will be, a speedy return to the former uninhibited cordiality will not be an easy matter.

Opinion has been almost universally against China on the frontier question, but no cloud is without its silver lining. Administrators in India have seen in the situation an opportunity to grasp some difficult nettles. The pressure on the northern borders has provided an added impetus to speeding

industrialisation. Even persistent critics of Government policy and planning, like the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, are now in favour of a bigger defence budget and more investment in large-scale industries. Which is not to say, however, that Mr. Nehru is at all likely to keep the dispute with China going just for the sake of having a prod for the Third Five-Year Plan!

Ignored Indonesia

THE Dutch decision to create a council with a majority of Papuans as the first step towards self-government in New Guinea, may well turn out to be a boomerang. For it is unlikely that the people in the territory will be satisfied with anything less than complete independence, within the rest of Indonesia, which to them alone among the subjects of the former Dutch Empire has been denied. Holland seems to realise this and the despatch of an aircraft-carrier and two destroyers, as well as the expansion of the air base on Biak, may just as well be directed as an intimidation against independence-minded Papuans as it may be against Indonesia.

It is advisable that more attention should be paid to the explosive potentialities of the West Irian question. No other issue is of such high emotional importance to the whole Indonesian nation. By tacitly accepting the Dutch occupation of this last remnant of their former possessions in the East, the West is supporting the continuance of colonialism in a region where this carries the worst possible stigma. Also, by ignoring Indonesia's claims to that part of her territory, the western powers, to which we must add Australia, are preparing a situation where Jakarta may be driven to act in despair. Just as Holland, in the words of her Minister of the Interior, is taking measures "with the express intention of emphasizing that the Dutch Government is not abandoning the territory", so is also Indonesia building up her defence forces. A clash may occur where reasoning fails, and there is little justification for Dutch colonialism to hold on to a part of Indonesian soil.

The situation is bound to become more aggravated as the Indonesians feel themselves cheated and ignored, and as their relationship with Holland is deteriorating into hatred. Dutch colonial rule is far from forgotten, and Indonesia continues to smart under the results of former exploitation by a colonial economy, and to suffer from the neglect which a well-balanced Dutch budget necessitated. The statement by Mühlenfeld, Dutch Director of the Department of the Interior in Indonesia before the war, that "Indonesians are satisfied with 2½ cents a day" is still alive in the minds of Indonesians who have to cope with the heritage of lack of education and low living standards.

The West has only to lose by not examining the case of Indonesia with greater understanding and sympathy. Indonesia is a rich country which not only will offer tremendous opportunities during the period of its development, but which will represent an important market in the future. By alienating the Indonesians, the West may force them to look for better

understanding and help in other quarters, and Mr. Khrushchev's recent visit, and the apparent interest he showed in the country's political and economic problems, will not be lost on the Indonesian mind. Yet, Britain, for example, seems unmoved by Indonesian gestures of cooperation, like the transfer of her trading and banking offices from the Hague to London. President Sukarno has not been invited for a state visit though there have been a number of opportunities for that, nor has there been any sign that the UK would dare to show any interest in Jakarta's views lest she might offend the Dutch NATO partner or cause misgivings in Australia where, quite unreasonably, Dutch claims to New Guinea are supported to the fury of a close and potentially strong neighbour. The consequences of this lack of understanding of Indonesia's aspirations may soon make themselves felt in Britain, for there is no reason why Indonesia should not take her trade to Western Germany where she finds more sympathetic ears.

A Question of Sovereignty

THERE is one aspect of the US-Japanese military treaty which is causing more nervousness in Tokyo political circles than any other (see p.24). Strong nationalistic feelings have been aroused, amongst supporters of the treaty as well as amongst its opponents, by the strong infringement of sovereignty inherent in the treaty provisions.

During the ratification debate in the Diet, opposition members raised the question of what rights American troops had in Japan, and under whose command Japanese troops would come in the case of a military conflict in the Far East involving Japan. It has become known in Tokyo that the Pentagon interpretation of this question is that in such a case the command would have to be in American hands for the following reasons: command must be in the hands of the stronger military power; US generals have a greater experience in modern warfare; Japanese forces, like those of Chiang Kai-shek and of South Korea form only one part of the overall American defence forces in the Far East. There is little doubt that these considerations will rankle in the minds of the Japanese, not only because of nationalist pride, but also because it will make Japan less independent in her dealings with her neighbours.

All Eyes on the Summit

NO specific Asian problems are expected to be discussed at the Summit meeting this month. However, it is realised all over Asia that any *detente* in the cold war which may result from the Paris conference will be of equally important benefit to all peoples in the world. It is, of course, possible that Mr. Khrushchev may raise the question of China, but the West will definitely not do so. Also, there is a chance that assistance to underdeveloped countries will be discussed at the Summit, although it is known that the US does not favour at present any coordination of such help, which would include Russian contributions, in the form of an international agency for that purpose. Where Asian interests may be particularly aroused will be an attempt by the Summit to define the essence and the workings of coexistence. The West is far

from satisfied with the interpretation given to that word by Russia, just as India is not sure what the Chinese understand by it. What the Summit will produce in the form of closer East-West cultural relations, the degree to which a possible understanding on the status of Berlin will be arrived at, and the statements on disarmament which may be expected from the Big Four, are likely to give an indication not only to Asia, but to the whole world as to the measure of security and peace we may expect for the immediate future.

It would be absurd to expect an agreement on Germany where East and West hold views miles apart, nor is it likely that any sweeping understanding on disarmament will be reached at the Summit. On the other hand, the tenor and the atmosphere of the meeting will be watched by the world, and any goodwill displayed by the big powers will be appreciated as a proof of relaxation in the cold war tension. There is a chance that on the occasion of the Summit an agreement on nuclear tests may be signed by the US, UK and the USSR (France is not yet in on this), but on the whole the Summit meeting will probably yield more discussion than actual negotiation. Even so, it has all the sincere wishes of all peoples who will see in it the beginning of a concerted action to preserve the human race from self destruction.

Talking to Asia

A wrong impression of the amount of money spent on broadcasting from Britain to countries of the Far East was given in our comment, "Talking to Asia", last month. The £6 million pounds mentioned is the total figure for all overseas broadcasting; the amount for the Far East is only a small percentage of that figure. The transmission to Thailand, which has been discontinued, was of 30 minutes' duration.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ASIA

M. S. ADISESHIAH, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

HUNGER, disease, poverty and ignorance are still unfortunately the daily lot of two-thirds of mankind inhabiting the world's less-developed areas, and at least half of humanity is illiterate. Three out of four have an average income of only £30 a year. The fight against this kind of human misery and demands all over the world for a better life have been vested as a trust in the United Nations.

Article 55(a) of the Charter of the United Nations states:

"With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of the peoples, the United Nations shall promote . . . higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development."

All members of the United Nations are pledged by Article 56 to take action to achieve these purposes. How are these purposes achieved and how is Unesco, a member of the United Nations family, carrying out its task of aiding countries on the continent of Asia?

1. By the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance which had its origins in Resolution 222 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, passed in August 1949. The purpose of the programme (known in United Nations' jargon as EPTA) is designed to promote the economic development of the country receiving assistance.

2. By Unesco's Programme of Participation in the Activities of Member States. Aid extended under this programme is much broader in scope than the Technical Assistance Programme and covers all fields of Unesco's activities. The Participation Programme aims at assisting national plans and programmes of Member States, and the financial and technical responsibility for implementing such programmes therefore rests with the Member States requesting such aid.

3. By assistance provided under Unesco's Regular Programme, financed from Unesco's budget.

4. By the United Nations Special Fund which is designed to assist a limited number of relatively important projects which are likely to make a rapid contribution to economic development. The projects under the "Special Fund" are substantially larger than those implemented under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, and whereas "EPTA" finances projects in education and science at school and university level, the "Special Fund" is restricted, for the present, to such projects as technological and engineering training, likely to provide a sound basis for capital investment within a foreseeable future. In fact, the Special Fund operates at the level of "pre-investment".

An attempt is made here to describe an illustrative list of projects which have been undertaken in Asian countries over the past few years. They will give an idea of how the Technical Assistance Programme and the other aid programmes are implemented and the results that have been achieved.

EDUCATION

Afghanistan: Technical Education

In 1958, the Kandahar Technical School completed its first year with 58 students of whom 50 passed the first examinations of a three-year course successfully. These students will eventually become skilled workers or foremen in Afghan factories. The Technical Assistance team consisting of three experts is also giving advanced training to selected students who are to become teachers and it is hoped that they will later replace the Technical Assistance specialists.

The Afghan authorities are fully cooperating with the expert team and have been responsible for the construction of the workshops and the completion of the school building. As a result, the country has today over 100 technicians and skilled workers for their factories and firms and this number will be augmented annually to meet their growing needs.

Inter-Asian Out of School Education

The Reading Materials project was launched as a Unesco regional project in South Asia (Burma, Ceylon, India, Iran and Pakistan) to stimulate production of suitable and easy-to-read literature. The following activities receive assistance:

1. Publication of surveys, research and technical studies;
2. National and Regional Seminars on Production, Promotion and Distribution Problems;
3. Training of Personnel through provision of expert service and fellowships;
4. The award of prizes and assistance to production agencies in pilot publications, to encourage authors;
5. Creation of National book trusts and other similar institutions;
6. Clearing House services and documentation to those interested in the objectives of the project, and publication of a quarterly Information Bulletin on Reading Materials.

In this programme, help has been given in the creation of national book centres in two countries—Pakistan and Ceylon—and a programme to expand book distribution and promotion, including market research, standard setting activities in fees for authors, illustrators, etc.

Thailand: Thailand—Unesco Fundamental Education Centre

Since the inception of this centre, 40 teams have graduated after training and assigned as Fundamental Education organizers to work in their native provinces. Each team consists of six persons (Adult Education, home-making, village crafts, community health, social welfare and rural agriculture).

Each team in turn trains volunteer village workers in fundamental education and fosters as well as coordinates fundamental education work in the areas to which they have been assigned. Definite improvement has been observed in better standards of living in homes and communities, in more effective occupational practices, in sanitation and health, and in adult education wherever the fundamental education organizers have been assigned.

NATURAL SCIENCES

Ceylon: Science Teaching

General science is being steadily developed in all schools and, since 1957, two science teaching specialists have been assisting the Government in carrying out an intensive training programme. The project which created much interest has rapidly widened in scope. Progress has been made in accelerated teacher training, design and construction of school laboratories, provision of teaching material and equipment for demonstration and experiments, the setting-up of science libraries for teachers, production of audio-visual aids and simple equipment, drafting a handbook for science teachers, training of teachers in the repair and maintenance of equipment, science "clubs", educational broadcasting, science museum, production of a periodical devoted to popular science, inclusion of scientific material in reading materials for new literates, etc.

Full government support and a strong nucleus of local personnel, including highly-qualified counterpart, have enabled the expert team to achieve maximum progress in carrying out this long-term programme. The Government of Ceylon has also given financial support, in addition to contributions from other quarters.

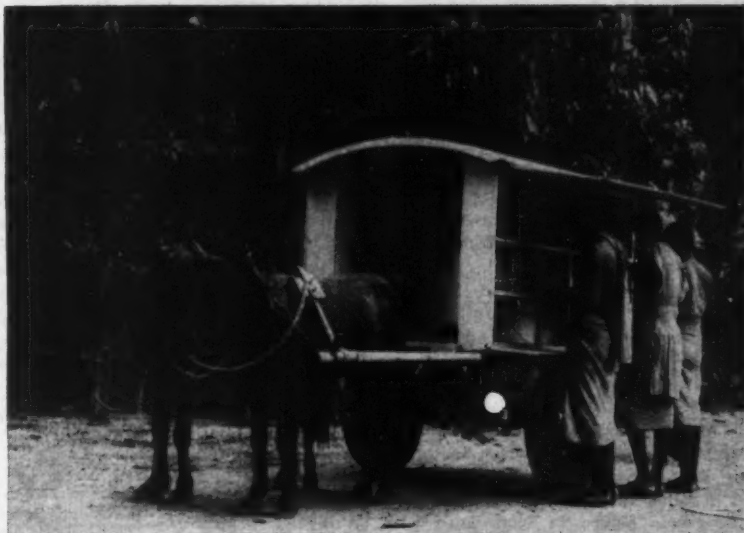
India: Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

In order to increase the number of trained technical personnel available for the country's plan for economic development, the Government established the Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur. This was the first integrated technological institute in India. A Unesco expert in mechanical engineering and another in civil engineering were appointed in 1951 to help initiate research courses and organize various departments of the Institute. In 1952, an expert in hydraulics engineering joined the Unesco team.

Assistance in the fields of mechanical, civil and hydraulics engineering continued throughout 1954 and, during that year, a National Foundrymen Training Centre was opened with a workshop which was equipped by funds from the United States bilateral aid programme. Classes began at a three-month industrial course in modern foundry practice and instruction in production technology was also undertaken. New courses were organized in civil engineering and a syllabus for architectural studies was prepared. Necessary equipment for a hydraulics laboratory was procured through cooperation of the Colombo Plan (UK) and the United States bilateral programme (ICA). Three United States bilateral experts were assigned to the Institute and worked in close liaison with the Unesco team.

In May 1955, the mechanical engineering expert completed his assignment. The specialist in civil engineering and new experts in electrical and industrial engineering served the project. Post-graduate courses were organized and fellowships were awarded in high voltage engineering and electrical and foundry engineering. There was still an urgent need for equipment and, accordingly, Unesco placed orders for approximately \$28,000 worth of equipment during the course of that year.

In 1956, a considerable advance took place in the Institute's



Monks borrow books from a mobile library in Thailand

development. There was a continual revision of an improvement in undergraduate courses and many were added to the curriculum in accordance with the revised requirements of the Second Five-Year Plan. Graduates of the Institute were received most favourably in industry and in government. Due to the increased number of applicants, it was felt necessary to expand, particularly in the fields of mechanical engineering, metallurgy and geophysics. The Institute determined to conduct at least four residential advanced courses every year in the field of productivity in industry.

In 1957, the Unesco experts in civil and electrical engineering continued to assist the work at Kharagpur. The head of the project devoted much of his efforts during the first quarter of the year to briefing the USSR experts provided by Unesco for the Indian Institute of Technology at Bombay. These specialists were temporarily stationed at Kharagpur until the completion of the buildings at Bombay. Research was also carried out in structural steel and reinforced concrete. Research at the soil mechanics' laboratories continued and investigation was undertaken of the foundation material for the new Durgapur steel plant. A similar study was conducted for the Rourkela steel plant which is another of the major projects instituted under the Second Five-Year Plan. In electrical engineering, post-graduate courses were organized in automatic control of electrical machines, automatic process control in mechanical engineering and governing and control for mechanical engineering. The measurements laboratory initiated a post-graduate course in instrumentation and automatic control. The two experts completed their assignments in July 1957. Two 1956 programme fellows were sent abroad to undertake study programmes in the USSR and Czechoslovakia.

India: Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

The Government requested Unesco's assistance in establishing, near Bombay, the second of four higher institutes of technology planned for the country. The first institute had been successfully developed with Government of India, bilateral

and Unesco assistance at Kharagpur. A preliminary survey team visited India for six weeks, starting in April 1956, and prepared recommendations and preliminary plans for establishing and equipping the proposed institute. Based on these recommendations, 19 expert posts (including three scientific translators) were established, lists of equipment were compiled and a fellowship programme drawn up. The first batch of major equipment orders were placed by the end of the year and recruitment of experts began.

The first six Unesco experts from the USSR, provided under the Unesco Programme, arrived in India in January and were soon followed by two additional groups. Prior to completion of construction of the buildings at Bombay, these experts were temporarily stationed at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Department of Chemical Engineering of Bombay University. The experts assisted in preparing detailed plans for the laboratories of the new institute. They also compiled syllabi, developed teaching materials and assisted in training Indian personnel. Another expert joined the team in October. The site for the Institute has been acquired and a temporary building was in use. The group of experts at Kharagpur moved to Bombay at the end of the year. Further orders of equipment were placed in accordance with established priorities. Steps were also taken to select the staff for the new Institute.

Today, the Institute has been established in its permanent site at Powai, and by the end of 1962 it will be in full working order with an engineering student body of 1,200, a well-trained staff of 130 members and adequate workshops.

The two Institutes in Kharagpur and Bombay are able to meet about one-tenth of the industrial needs of the country for graduate engineers.

Indonesia: Science Teaching

This project was initiated by Unesco early in 1951 to assist the Government in extending primary education, with the ultimate aim of making such schooling compulsory. It was designed to raise teaching standards, revise curricula and modernize the existing educational system. The project's activities cover primary education, teacher training, textbook production, science teaching, audio-visual aids and library reorganization.

In its early stages, the science teaching section of the programme was devoted to training instructions, devising science curriculum and improving science teaching aids. The Science Teaching centre was established at Bandung in December 1952 for in-service training of selected teachers and, to date, has given a total of 34 courses. Science teaching was recently integrated into the overall programme of teacher training. The Centre was furnished by a generous grant of equipment by the Colombo Plan (UK and Australia).

The teacher training side of the project began with a centre for in-service training for selected teachers, and a comprehensive plan for pre-service and in-service training was drawn up within the framework of the Government's Ten-Year Plan. Its scope was later enlarged to include educational research, with emphasis on the revision of teacher training curricula. Three pilot projects were initiated in 1955 and are run by Indonesian staff trained at the main centre, with guidance from the Unesco staff. The teaching methods introduced have received official approval and are being applied to all teacher training centres.

The effects of this programme are already seen in the trained personnel available to the Universities, technical institutes and industry.

Japan: Regional Training Course in the Application of Radio-isotopes in Scientific Research

The training course on the utilization of radio-isotopes in scientific research, organized in Tokyo in the autumn of 1958 and sponsored jointly by the Government of Japan and the Unesco Science Cooperation Office for South-East Asia, was held at the Radio-isotopes School of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission which is directly responsible to the Prime Minister.

The course was thoroughly prepared and paved the way for the centre to be used in the future as a Training Centre in the use of radio-isotopes not only for Japanese scientists, but also for all Asian countries, as it brought together 26 foreign and six Japanese scientists; participants came from Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaya, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of China, Thailand and Vietnam.

Radio-isotopes which can be procured and transported easily are thus made available to countries in Asia.

Pakistan: Pharmacology

A Technical Assistance expert in pharmacology has aided the Government of Pakistan in the organization of a Drug Research Institute attached to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. He has succeeded in extracting an alkaloid from Rauwolfia which has proved to serve efficiently various medical purposes. Rauwolfia forms part of the rich medicinal flora of Pakistan, and a commercial exploitation of this discovery by Pakistan is believed to give additional impetus to the economic potential of the country.

Two members of the staff of the Drug Research Institute have benefited from fellowships for study abroad to ensure future expansion of the institute.

Pakistan: University Science Teaching (Lahore)

The Government of Pakistan requested Unesco assistance in 1951 to train local scientists. The first expert to arrive under this project was a geologist who helped to establish a Department of Geology and Mineralogy at the University of Punjab in 1952. The second expert, a metallurgist, arrived later in the year to assist the University of Dacca in organizing courses in metallurgical engineering.

The metallurgist completed his work at the University of Dacca and left in December 1953. Unesco assistance, thereafter, was concentrated on the development of the Department of Geology and Mineralogy at the University of Punjab. The first expert was replaced in the latter part of 1955 by an expert in petroleum geology. By 1956, the Department had full facilities for teaching and research in the usual branches of geology. An official opening ceremony was conducted by the Government of West Pakistan on December 30, 1956. Apparatus for the newly-completed chemical laboratory and textbooks for students have been offered through the Colombo Plan while the Library and Map Section have received donations of valuable regional literature from Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Rock-cutting machinery has been installed and a Unesco specialist in that subject helped train local technicians in the preparation of geological specimens during his three-month mission at the end of the year.

An expert in geology was added to the team at the end of 1956. During 1957, the course in geophysics was incorporated in the regular training offered by the Department, whose staff was increased and teaching quality improved. Syllabi for courses for the B.Sc. and M.Sc. examinations were produced. The Department graduated the first five M.Sc. students who

readily found employment. During the summer field excursions, conducted by the Department, previously unknown mineral deposits were located.

The result has been the establishment of the first Department of Geology and Mineralogy in the country whose graduates are being used to exploit the untapped mineral resources of the country.

Philippines: Scientific and Technical Documentation

Expert assistance has been provided by Unesco with the aim of establishing a documentation centre in pure and applied sciences, which, when set up, would serve as (a) a training centre to documentalists, and (b) as an example for documentation centres in other fields.

After completing a survey on the needs, the expert submitted his recommendations to the Philippine government which adopted them. The "Science Act" promulgated in June 1958 by the President of the Republic established the "Division of Scientific Library and Documentation" as part of the reorganized National Institute of Science and Technology. The Division was officially installed in new premises in July 1959. Building is proceeding for a training room and other facilities; equipment, books and periodicals have been purchased. The Scientific Library which houses the Library of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission, has become the most important

of its kind. More than 1,000 foreign periodicals are being received and its reading room is in great demand by scholars and students. The photographic section which will be housed in its own laboratory is already in full swing; it provides photo-stats and microfilms to enquirers at home and abroad, and photo-duplication techniques are widely used for building up a central catalogue of all bibliographies available in Manila as well as a Union Catalogue of Philippine publications in Pure and Applied Science. The printed version of the Catalogue, expected to contain about 2,000 titles, will be a useful means of exchange for periodicals and microfilms whose normal purchase is hampered by the lack of foreign currency.

Training of scientific documentalists has been going on since 1958 and courses are designed to familiarize trainees with documentation techniques (abstracting, cataloguing, use of punched cards, etc.). Under the experts' guidance, trainees have started systematic abstracting of all papers published since 1950 in the "Philippine Journal of Science".

The expert gives German and French language courses which have proved very popular. It is now planned to organize a "Philippine Association of Scientific Translators", with a Board of Assessors responsible for evaluating the competence of members and for issuing diplomas.

(To be continued)

DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

By HABIB ABDULLAYEV

This is the first of three exclusive articles which Academician Abdullayev, President of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, has specially written for "Eastern World". The second and third articles will deal with Uzbekistan's industry and scientific progress respectively.

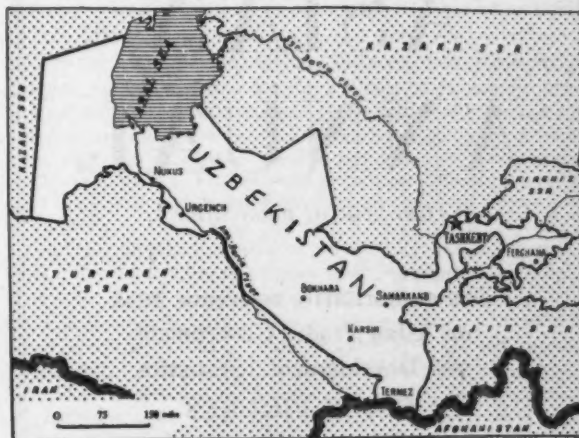
THE ancient land of the Uzbeks lies in the basin of two great Central Asian rivers—the Amu Darya and the Sir Darya. In the North-West Uzbekistan borders on the Aral sea and in the South-East it closes up on the "Heavenly Mountains"—the Tien Shan. Its area is 159,000 sq. miles, populated by a little under eight and a half million. Uzbekistan is today a highly-developed socialist republic with a powerful industry, mechanised agriculture and advanced science and culture.

The majority of the branches of heavy and light industries of Uzbekistan were created in Soviet times: coal and gas production, the manufacture of chemical and electrotechnical goods, metallurgy and machine building. Before the revolution, there was not a single textile enterprise on the territory of Uzbekistan, whereas today, there are one hundred and fifty textile, silk weaving and clothing enterprises in the republic. Indeed, the Uzbekistan holds fourth place in the USSR in gross industrial output. In the production of cotton fabrics it is second only to the Russian Federation and in electric power output it holds third place in the country.

The Uzbek republic accounts for 98 per cent of all the cotton growing machinery manufactured in the USSR. Many industrial enterprises in Uzbekistan export their goods to Poland, Albania, Indonesia, India, Turkey and other countries.

Uzbekistan is the land of "white gold", as cotton is often called in Central Asia. Last year, the peasants of the republic harvested 3,160,000 tons of cotton as against 517,000 in 1913.

In agricultural and industrial production, the Uzbek republic



can successfully compete with many of the most highly developed foreign countries. Under the current Seven-Year plan, capital investments for economic development in Uzbekistan will amount to 36 million roubles, which is 140 per cent of the total capital expenditure during the previous seven-year period. This rate of development is far higher than the average in the USSR as a whole, where it is only 80 per cent.

The past

Prerevolutionary Uzbekistan was partly in the Turkestan province under a Russian governor-general and partly in the Khiva and Bukhara khanates. Torn to bits and deprived of national statehood, Uzbekistan belonged to that part of Russia, where feudal relations were preserved in the main. Like the other provinces of tsarist Russia, Uzbekistan was forcefully kept in the position of a raw materials base for the metropolis, which was one of the reasons for its constant backwardness.

Uzbekistan, the land of silk and cotton, had not a single textile factory, and hardly any power production. Over 98 per cent of the adult population was illiterate and only 1.8 per cent of the budget of Turkestan was earmarked for education.

In 1906, the journal *Vestnik Vospitania* ("Educational Herald"), analysing the results of a census, pointed out that at the then existing rate of education, it would require 4,600 years to do away with illiteracy in Central Asia.

The new era

After the advent of Soviet power in the country, the Uzbek people have gone through unprecedented economic, political and cultural development. In remarkably short time, a powerful and many-sided industry has been created in the republic, uniting today some 7,000 state and cooperative enterprises. Those branches of industry that facilitate the rapid growth of cotton production have been developed most of all, but at the same time the very structure of industry has radically changed.

Before the revolution, Uzbekistan exported only agricultural raw materials, whereas today the republic offers in addition a wide assortment of industrial goods such as farm, textile and other machines, electric cables of all types, various electro-technical material, fabrics, clothing, footwear, etc.

The Uzbek republic is also a major producer of various machines, devices, mineral fertilisers, insecticide and other appliances for cotton growing and cotton ginning, widely used in all the cotton-growing republics of the USSR.

The republic has a big army of highly qualified technical specialists: the total number of engineers and technicians at the plants and factories of Uzbekistan numbers 13,100. There are many women employed in all branches of the national economy, particularly in light industry and in food production.

Tashkent, the capital of the Uzbek republic, and other cities and towns such as Samarkand, Ferghana, Andijan and Kokand have developed into large industrial and cultural centres, and new towns have appeared on the map of the country, like Chirchik, Begovat, Yangi-Yul, Angren, Almalik and Yangi-Yer.

Prospects

The Uzbek republic is to fulfil great tasks in the future. First and foremost, it will develop those branches of economy, for which the nature and economic level of Uzbekistan provide the most favourable conditions.

Non-ferrous metallurgy, the chemical industry and the building materials industry, and particularly the gas industry will be substantially developed. It is planned to create a powerful centre of gas production in Uzbekistan on the base of the recently discovered Bukhara and Khiva gas-bearing province. In 1965, gross industrial output in Uzbekistan is to be 80 per cent above that of 1958. Agricultural production, during the same period, will go up by 60 per cent.

Culture and Science

In the rate of development of higher education, the Uzbek republic has overtaken not only the foreign countries in the East, but also many countries in Western Europe. In Uzbekistan, the number of specialists with a higher education to every 10,000 of the population is 2.6 times higher than in France and seven times higher than in Turkey. Prior to the revolution, there was only one Uzbek language newspaper, whereas today, there are 162 papers in Uzbek and Kara-Kalpak.

Uzbekistan boasts over 6,500 public schools, specialised secondary schools and vocational centres, with a total attendance of about a million and a half pupils. There are some two hundred thousand specialists with a higher and secondary education—almost as many as there were in the whole of Russia in 1913. Today, there are 109 students to every 10,000 of the population in Uzbekistan as compared with 92 in the United States, 58 in Japan, 39 in France, 31 in Italy and 22 in Spain.

During the last 20 years, the number of people with a higher education to every 1,000 of the population has increased from three to 13, and the number of people with a secondary education—from 39 to 234.

The current seven-year period will also be marked by new progress in higher learning and scientific-research work.

One of the important features in the plans for the work of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences is the implementation of modern methods of research (radioactive isotopes, electronic-computing machines, exact optical devices and other up-to-date scientific equipment) while the Nuclear Physics Research Institute is using atomic energy in industry and medicine.

All over the republic there is a rapid improvement in the living standards of the population, and it is expected that during the next few years, the consuming power of the population in Uzbekistan will grow by 60 to 63 per cent.

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PROGRESS IN THE GILGIT AGENCY

L. P. CLARK

SIX out of every seven of Pakistan's 80 million inhabitants live in villages, and if the country is to be developed and provided with an economy that will guarantee the country a place in the modern world, the villages must be revolutionised.

It was for this purpose that Pakistan launched its Village Aid Five-Year Plan in 1956. Its aim is to improve the lot of villagers by encouraging self help and cooperative effort amongst them. Past efforts at rural improvement have failed chiefly because they have been spasmodic, uncoordinated and imposed from above.

Today, the Village Aid workers, those actually responsible for carrying out the Five-Year Plan, feel that they have overcome these obstacles and that Village Aid will succeed. The problems and opportunities provided in the territory of the Gilgit Agency serve to focus the difficulties and possibilities of the scheme which is designed to embrace the whole country.

The geographical position of the Agency is far from encouraging. It is neighbour to Kashmir, Afghanistan and Russia, whose frontiers are closed against her. Trade with Sinkiang has been stopped, and the old trade route through Srinagar into the Vale of Kashmir is closed. All supplies must come from Pakistan or "Down Country", as the Gilgites say.

The Pakistan Government, like the British Government before it, is well aware of the strategic importance of Gilgit and have made special efforts to spur on its development. But in this isolated, mountainous region, they face the difficult problem of geographical isolation.

In an effort to overcome this isolation, the Pakistan Government built an airstrip at Gilgit and five planes are kept for the flight from Rawalpindi in the Punjab to Gilgit. Each plane, weather permitting, makes the round trip three times a day, but the Agency is too poor to meet the freight charges. In spite of subsidies, air transport raises the cost of a sack of fertiliser from Rs.5 in the Punjab to 60 in the Gilgit Zimindar. So heavy are the charges that out of Rs.300,000 for the annual Village Aid budget in the area, 200,000 are spent on transport.

To reduce transport costs, the Pakistan Government is building an all-weather road up the Indus Valley. The jeep road, over the 12,000 ft. Babusa Pass is only open three months of the year. In those three months, taxi jeeps for miles around work at full pressure bringing up nine months of supplies and fuel to Babusa. The remaining nine months are spent carrying the supplies North into the towns and villages.

It is obvious that the supply lines are overstrained, and the more so as Gilgit is of such strategic importance it must maintain numbers of troops. It was obvious that the area must produce more of its requirements, but the geographical environment hardly favours this. Over 90 per cent of the region is uncultivable, bare-rock mountain, and the river valleys are mostly too steep for cultivation.

Here and there, however, pockets of soil have accumulated along the Gilgit Hunsa and the Indus river. When water is taken to these pockets, they prove amazingly fertile. But water, too, is a problem. Only 15 inches of rain fall a year, mostly in summer, when the sun's heat is sufficient to evaporate many times this amount. So if the people are to grow enough to last through the winter they must irrigate the land.

The Central Government is responsible for policy and guidance, and also provides 75 per cent of all non-recurring expenditure and 50 per cent of recurring expenditure. In the Gilgit Agency the Development Officer, Mohammed Ismail Khan, is responsible for planning and coordinating the Village Aid Programme. Under him are two Village Aid supervisors who act as overlookers of the Village Aid workers, who are selected villagers who have shown an unusual interest in farming and village life, and have completed a year's course at a Training Institute.

These workers have an understanding of animal husbandry, cottage industries like weaving and carpentry, and health and sanitation. The Development Officer has been in Gilgit only about a year and only now are the workers returning from their training at the Institute.

A variety of new strains of seed have been introduced, and over C.5091 wheat seed was brought in and given to the farmers in 1957. The crops were tremendous and the prestige value of Village Aid rocketed. There have been set-backs in the shape of yellow rust and worms attacking the crops, but the villagers have been encouraged to the extent of helping to build new irrigation channels which slow the descent of water from the mountains by providing it with a more gentle gradient.

New ploughs have been provided which dig the land more deeply, and a village landowner offered an acre of his land to be used as a nursery. He built the surrounding wall, and the Village Aid provided a variety of fruit trees. In five years' time, when the trees are thinned out, there will be a first-class fruit orchard, and the surplus will be sold to villagers. Already there have been requests from other landowners for more nurseries.

With the aim of improving the livestock, pedigree bulls, a pedigree stallion and two donkey stallions have been brought in, and the donkeys will produce mules, which will provide an essential form of transport lacking in the area. Merino rams from Australia have also been introduced into the Agency. As the local yield is 4 lb. of wool per sheep, while the Merinos is 16 lb., it is hoped to more than double the wool production in the area.

Cottage industries are being encouraged, for the communications difficulty will prevent Gilgit from becoming a manufacturing centre for many years. For centuries, Hunsa, Gilgit and Cholas tweeds have had a world reputation. At present the chief drawback to a larger production is the narrowness of the cloth, the cottage looms weaving a width of only 18 inches. The VA authorities are now issuing looms capable of producing cloth 30 inches wide, and by using these looms, increasing the amount of local wool and organising the marketing of products, it is expected that the area will soon be providing an exportable surplus which will strengthen the Agency's economy.

The art of the blacksmith is another cottage industry that is being developed. A smith recently made all the metal parts for a suspension bridge over a watercourse, thus saving the need to import these parts.

The VA workers have also given villagers instruction in simple carpentry and home building. The results are seen in

the many new houses in the villages, which are built with solid stone and well-fitted doors and windows, and are in strong contrast to the traditional shacks of mud bricks.

The hospital facilities in the Gilgit Agency are better than in any other area of Pakistan. In Gilgit itself there is a magnificently equipped hospital and dispensaries, in charge of qualified workers, are maintained at several villages.

The VA workers also carry out spraying programmes, the digging of new sanitation ditches, encourage the people to dig new wells to improve their water supply and educate the people in the elementary rules of good health.

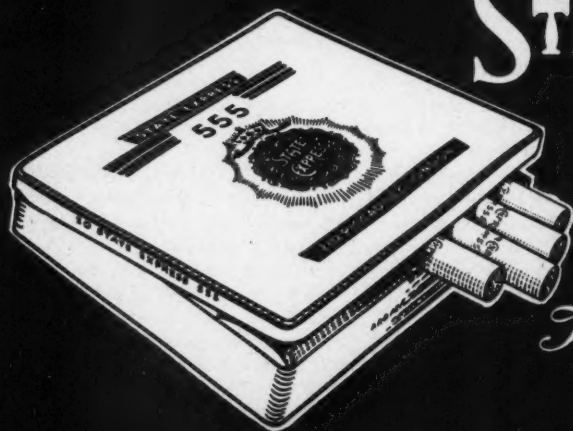
Encouraged by all this, the people are showing an unusual cheerfulness and sense of purpose, and there is a heartening absence of cripples and beggars compared with the villages of down country Pakistan.

In the sphere of community facilities the programme seems to be lagging. Although jeepable roads appear on blue-print maps, few appear in the territory, and these are little more than tracks. New bridges are appearing here and there, and at Punial a great suspension bridge is being constructed over the River Gilga. Three-quarters of the cost and all the unskilled labour for this bridge have been provided by the villagers, while the villagers of Punial and district, determined to build a bridge over the mouth of the Hunsa River, have paid contributions worth Rs.30 per house and have cut all the wood for it. Villagers elsewhere have made a payment of kind which covered three-quarters of the cost of a suspension bridge on the road from Gilgit to Punial. In spite of all this, the major part of the area cannot be reached by any form of vehicle, the only access being on foot or horse over winding tracks and paths.

Mistakes, too, have been made. In the Shinshall, a huge glacier of the Karakorum mountains extended its course into the valley of the Upper Hunsa, thus forming a natural reservoir. The Air Force was asked to break the reservoir by bombing, but the planes flown over it reported that there was no danger. Three weeks later, after a period of heavy rain, the glacier dam burst and a great flood plunged into the valley, sweeping away two suspension bridges which had cost Rs.600,000, almost obliterating an irrigation canal which three years' work had brought to near completion and destroying a newly-built settlement.

At present much of Pakistan is governed at local level by feudal type systems. In Punial, part of the Gilgit Agency, the hereditary Raja, Tam Miam, rules the people with the aid of an appointed council of elders. A start has been made in educating the people in the basic essentials of democracy, but not until democracy rules at village level can it operate on a national scale. Already the Mir of Gilgit is merely a figure head and local government is administered by an elected council of elders. Elected headmen and elected councils are also appearing in some of the villages, and are found in all the villages of the settled area. This is a significant start, but no more.

Along with the councils, village schools slowly appear, but with the exception of the Government High School at Gilgit with over 900 boys, these are small, suffer seriously from a lack of teachers and are limited in their effectiveness. Girls' schools are almost non-existent, but there is one at Gilgit and one in building at the village of Jutial. There is a new spirit in the Gilgit Agency which, eventually, must produce a new and infinitely better Pakistan.



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ASIAN SURVEY

WAYS TO AID

From our Special Correspondent

HALF-WAY between Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and Rawalpindi, the new capital of Pakistan, lies Peshawar in Pakistan's North-West Frontier province. There, one of the topics of conversation round the bar by business men on leave from Kabul is the contrast between the way Russia and the United States handle their giving of aid. This is, of course, a world-wide topic, but in a small country like Afghanistan where both countries are vying with each other to gain the goodwill of the people, comparisons can be more easily made.

The United States come off worst. Their help, though lavish in some ways, is said to be for the most part impractical. Russia, on the other hand, has built good roads, is supplying kerosene for transport and has gained much popularity by building a large bakery with much needed grain stores alongside it. They have seen to it that Afghanistan's dependence on their aid is now too great for them to be able to do without it. On the political side, Russia has been far more voluble in favour of Afghanistan's claim for Pakhtoonistan (a claim for an independent tribal state on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan which many consider absurd) than the United States

have been against it, in spite of the friendly relations between the US and Pakistan.

In Pakistan, too, there is a feeling that US aid is not being directed in the best way. Pakistan is, of course, desperately in need of it and most distressed that the US foreign aid programme has been cut. But such aid as is being given, particularly agricultural, has often been quite divorced from the conditions in the country and its use at the receiving end left unsupervised. I heard tell of new farming machinery unpacked and neglected, some of it quite unsuited to the land where it was sent. Agricultural trainees from Pakistan have been lavishly entertained in America and shown the modern methods of farming there, only to return to precisely the same backward conditions they left behind.

Pakistan's villages—and Afghanistan's—do not need large-scale supplies of mechanised, ultra-modern equipment and the like. The humblest assistance, cleverly directed, can help far more than aid on a grander scale which is not. This is something that the Russian Government with its experience in dealing with poor peasants can easily understand. Unhappily, it seems to be taking a long time for the United States to grasp it.

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India

Waiting for a Miracle

From our Correspondent in India

What the repercussions will be of an eternal triangle case tried in the Bombay court, that of a Commander K. M. Nanavati sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for life on the charge of murdering his wife's lover and the decision of the Governor of Bombay to return the writ and warrant unserved to the Court, have yet to be seen. When this case was first heard the jury returned a verdict of not guilty on all counts. The judge refused to accept this decision so a retrial took place. It is upon the sentence of rigorous life imprisonment that the Governor of Bombay took advice from the Central Government and declared that Nanavati's sentence should be suspended till the disposal of his application for appeal to the Supreme Court and that also he should remain in the custody of the Navy. On March 15 Nanavati was refused leave to appeal.

This action of the Governor of Bombay, for which Mr Nehru takes full responsibility, is now emerging into a contest between the Judiciary, the Services, Mr Nehru and his critics. The critics of Mr Krishna Menon suggest that the action of the Central Government on Nanavati's behalf is due to Mr Menon's influence as Minister of Defence.

The participants in this drama are full of the glamour of a novelette . . . the accused, handsome, brilliant and assumed-

to-be passionate husband; the wife, English, attractive and mother of three children; and the victim, a businessman called Ahuja proven to be a man of many mistresses and a heavy drinker. A supply of 22 bottles apparently acquired from Naval sources was found in Ahuja's flat after the murder. This hoard in a dry state does indicate the non-success of the Prohibition Act in Bombay.

Nanavati's case has come just at the time when many people are dissatisfied with India's administration. Charges of bribery and corruption regarding the obtaining of the necessary licences and favours are constantly being levelled at the Government. According to businessmen it is virtually impossible to get the necessary licences for say, the extension of a business concern without, at some stage or another, the "greasing of a palm". Tourists too can suffer from the unhelpfulness of officials. In the heat of the noon-day sun, waiting for instance in a customs shed can be extremely tiring and unpleasant. This experience can often be avoided by the offer of a bribe. The victim or would-be victim has now reached the unhappy stage of believing that it is worth trying to bribe the official in order to avoid the gruelling formalities of "ordeal by red-tape".

But many of the critics of Nehru forget that they themselves are responsible for the Indian habit of leaving the reforms to the saints and the faults, as there must be in an experiment such as India's, to be exploited by the sinners. These contradictions in words and actions are to be seen everywhere. All this is in a country, restless and exotic, filled with all the potentialities of a sub-continent. India, like Joseph, has a coat of many colours, and she is still taking part in a vital experiment. But unfortunately many Indians seemed to have worn themselves out and the educated, like the masses, live in a semi-coma, fatalistic, waiting for a miracle to overtake them and India. Nehru's isolation in Government must become more evident unless the constructive implementation of democratic thought comes from the educated, self-sufficient Indian.

The muddled aims and thinking within the Congress party will no doubt clarify now that the Swatantra party has been established. The business world has to encourage the growth of a new elite of technicians but whether or not the Swatantra can also convince its own founder members of their own humility in a country where the peasant and the industrial worker needs such a great deal of assistance from the educated minority has yet to be verified.

The Swatantra party does appear to have a "custodian of self-preservation" air about it. But, in all fairness, the party memorandum does pledge itself to social justice and equality

of opportunity to all. The Congress party has always been associated with the goodwill of all the minorities. The ability of the Swatantra to command the support of these minorities other than just commanding the support of the business world will determine the strength of this party at the next election. Unless it can also get some support from the masses its chances of forming any future government remain slender.

Mr Nehru finds very little comfort in the Congress members who insist on thinking in terms of Victorian nationalism whereas he himself thinks in terms of internationalism, and the meeting in April between Mr Nehru and Chou En-lai will probably bear witness to the division of thought within the ruling party.

Japan

Mr. Kishi's Problem

From a Special Correspondent in Japan

Discussions concerning the controversial Japan — US Security Treaty constitute, at the time of writing, the most important political issue in Japan. Criticism of the treaty is not only confined to the Socialists whose spokesman, Matsumoto, accused Premier Nobosuke Kishi in the House of Counsellors as one of the "persons responsible" for the opening of the Pacific War who was now again creating "another military alliance". Kishi also appears to encounter some difficulties in obtaining the united support for the ratification of the 10-year treaty within his own party, the ruling Liberal Democrats. There are rumours that, to secure the necessary support, the Premier had to promise to retire from the government after the ratification of the treaty to satisfy various factions inside his party. This is supposed to have satisfied Ichiro Kono, one of its influential leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party known to be critical of the treaty.

The accusations voiced by Mr. Matsumoto reflect the bitter memory which Mr. Kishi's past activities have left in the minds of many. Nobosuke Kishi was a member of the Tojo Cabinet which started the war in the Pacific with the attack on Pearl Harbour. As Minister of Industry and Trade, he did his best to mobilise the entire economic resources of the country for the purposes of the war. After the surrender of Japan, Mr. Kishi was put on the list of war criminals and consequently served a three-year term in Sugamo prison.

Released from prison, Mr. Kishi very soon climbed to the top again and, today, is not only Prime Minister, but also the leader of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party. Despite the opposition from other personalities, like Ichiro Kono who heads another influential group within the party, Mr. Kishi's position is a very strong one. His faction is represented by 56 MPs, all of them his close associates from pre-war days. Each of them in his turn is closely associated with one or several industrial and banking corporations which finance the Kishi faction. Their main financial supporters include such prominent businessmen as Ishizaka Taizo, Adachi Tadashi, Hotta Shozo, Ito Takeo, Nagano Shigeo, Ojima Arakazu, Kishi Michizo and others. Thus it is not surprising that Mr. Kishi's policy may be strongly serving their interests. Some of these people deserve closer attention.

Ishizaka Taizo is president of the Federation of Economic Organisations and head of the great electrical engineering

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company Tokio Shibaura Denky, as well as being president of the Association of the Electrical Industry of Japan. This branch of industry has received about 50 per cent of all foreign, mostly American, post-war loans. The main shareholder in this company is the US "International General Electric".

Abachi Tadashi, president of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, is an advocate of the penetration of joint Japanese and American capital, in Asian countries.

Hotta Shozo is president of the Sumimoto Bank, with a capital of 5 billion yen. The bank is closely associated with various American banks and has branches in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento.

Ito Takeo heads one of the major Japanese shipping companies which operates between Japan and America.

Nagano Shigeo is one of the most influential figures in Japanese business circles. He is president of the metallurgical Fuji Seitetsu Company which is largely dependent on American raw materials and has a branch in New York. Nagano's brother is Minister of Transport in the Kishi Cabinet.

Ojima Arakazu is the president of the metallurgical Yawata Seitetsu Company, with branches in Western Germany and in New York. The company carries out large US orders using the patents of American firms.

Kishi Nichizo is president of a road building concern which is partly owned by the government and engaged in the construction of US military installations in Japan.

These are examples which show that the Kishi faction is closely linked with the interests of the major Japanese corporations which have grown up in the post-war period based on collaboration with the Americans. It is not surprising, therefore, that Mr. Kishi and his supporters are doing their best to achieve the ratification of a military treaty which, although it limits the sovereignty of Japan and converts the Japanese islands into a US atomic and missile base, fully serves the interests of these major Japanese corporations.

There is widespread popular opposition to the new treaty, as the Japanese are afraid that they may be drawn into a new

war against their interests. Mr. Asanuma, Secretary-General of the Socialist party, recently stated that Japan had already suffered enough from US atomic and hydrogen bombs. According to Mr. Tanaka, MP, the Japanese Constitution denies Japan the right to undertake any military operations. Yet the Security Treaty and the Self-Defence Forces Law provide for the use of arms, and it is felt widely here that it does so not for the sake of Japanese, but of American interests.

Australia

"Colour" and International Relations

From Charles Meeking, Canberra

Formation of the Afro-Asian bloc some years ago was probably due, in part at least, to a feeling common to most of the emerging nations of the two continents that in some areas of the world there remained large pockets of the feeling of "white supremacy". Such a belief was undoubtedly true, and the past and current evidences of racial prejudice in South Africa, the United States and elsewhere offer some justification of the search for unity among coloured peoples.

One of the dangers now being recognised is, of course, that coloured nations may develop strong feelings of superiority themselves, leading to new areas of racial friction. In other words, colour prejudice of any kind is unjustified, wrong and inflammatory.

The problem, as it is viewed in some informed circles here, is to discover how best to convince peoples everywhere that such prejudice, stemming far back to historical injustices and conflicts, is baseless; and, indeed, evidence of feeble-mindedness. The education of children is believed to be important—but school courses cannot counteract home influences.

The subject is far from being an academic one for Australia. In fact, it affects several aspects of our international relations, and may continue to do so for many generations. Australia's own internal policy of preventing the entry of coloured persons for permanent residence has been relaxed in a few categories in recent years, but there is still no indication of political acceptance of the admission of quotas of Asians, which is strongly urged in some influential quarters.

It is not easy to discover whether this official policy of restriction is really resented in Asia. Most Asian countries prefer to retain their own educated men and women, the type which might be allowed into Australia if the restrictions were ever really varied. Yet Asians generally are dubious when told that Australian policy is an economic and not a racial one.

This fact is not really a problem at present, although it could become so if science made adequate water available for the arid areas of inland Australia, and some of the overcrowded nations of Asia then looked around for living space. The immediate problems in our international relationships are those concerned with nearby Asian nations, and on these the Australian attitude on South Africa is having some impact.

The Australian Government's belief that the South African situation at the end of March was a "domestic" affair, no matter how regrettable the loss of life, was endorsed fairly widely in Australia, in spite of individual reactions of horror and dismay to events in South Africa. It was supported, in

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Shootings in S. Viet Nam

Sir,—Our Committee, in common with all people in this country and throughout the world, has been shocked at the shootings and other measures of repression in South Africa.

The full reports in the press and the widespread indignation expressed are heartening. It is therefore surprising that the press in this country is silent on the continual repression, shootings and executions committed by the authorities in South Vietnam.

In ten months in the West Nam-bo area alone, 469 South Vietnamese were killed; over 3,400 wounded; 4,000 arrested and thousands more herded into concentration camps and so-called "resettlement areas".

Our Government, as signatory to the 1954 Geneva Agreements and Co-Chairman with the Soviet Union, has the responsibility to see that such murders and reprisals are not committed and to support the International Control Commission in halting these activities of the South Vietnamese authorities.

It is the hope of this Committee that the press and the British public will give attention to this tragic situation.

Yours faithfully,

HILDA VERNON,
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fact, in quarters which do not normally endorse the Menzies Government policies. Doubt was expressed, however, on whether the Prime Minister (now, and for some time to come, also Minister for External Affairs) should have used as an argument the fear that approval of UN intervention in South Africa might some day soon be regarded as a precedent for international jurisdiction over and condemnation of Australian policy in its own territories, including eastern New Guinea.

The Government's views were considered, and responsible. Yet it was doubted if they would be accepted, or even understood, in Asia.

This, then, is the crux of the Australian dilemma. It is felt that certain principles must be upheld, even if the decisions run counter to the majority view on the Security Council or even the General Assembly of UN, and even if they increase the Asian doubts on where Australia stands in view of its own immigration policy, its membership of SEATO, and its support of the Dutch in the West Irian issue.

If time permitted, it might be possible to present arguments calmly and convincingly to Asian leaders, including President Sukarno, who is now reported to be considering a visit next October, despite his reported concern over recent statements by some irresponsible officials of the Returned Servicemen's League. But another problem may not leave much opportunity for time or reason.

This is presented by the growing Chinese pressure in Malaya, reinforced by the large Chinese majority in Singapore. As this is written, it is believed in informed circles in Australia that the Malayan situation is more critical than is generally understood. It is crucial for Malaya, but it is also of major importance for Australia.

For many years, Australian troops and airmen have been stationed in Malaya. Originally, there was some talk in Australia that these were the outposts of our northern defences, while they were also engaged in aiding the suppression of Communist terrorism. When Malaya became independent, it was recognised on all sides that the Malayan population would not care for the idea that their country was regarded as the outer rampart of the Australian security system, but the Australian forces have since remained at the request of the Malayan Government for security reasons.

There has been tacit acceptance of this arrangement, although it seems likely that the Australians there would be no greater protection for Malaya (or Australia), even in any localised aggression, than the island of New Guinea would these days for Australia. Modern missile warfare, even of the "brushfire" variety, might by-pass such defences.

But for Australia, the question is what action, if any, the Australian forces stationed in Malaya would take if the combined Chinese of Malaya and Singapore decided on direct action to assert their strength against the predominately-Malayan administration in Malaya.

The immensely difficult decision which would have to be made in Canberra in such an event would probably determine Australia's future vis-à-vis some hundreds of millions of coloured people in the nations of Asia and Africa.

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Singapore

Changing Island

From our Singapore Correspondent

What is the economic future of Singapore? This is the \$64 question that is exercising the minds of all businessmen in present-day Singapore. The answer seems to depend on just how fast Singapore can proceed with a large-scale programme of industrialisation. Unfortunately, there are problems connected with it which have still to be solved. For instance, Singapore has many millionaire Chinese "towkays" who have started from scratch and made their fortunes. They have the capital for investment and their business acumen is proven but the speculative world of trade is far different from the complicated world of manufacture. The wealthy Chinese merchants in Singapore working through their traditional family enterprises are not organised to operate modern joint stock companies nor have they any experience of their operation. How is it to be done then? The army of unemployed grows by leaps and bounds almost as alarmingly as the phenomenal birthrate. The calls on public revenue increase daily. And yet unless Singapore finds the answer quickly it will founder. The conclusion seems to be that Singapore must attract foreign capital and know-how, but this solution is not generally acceptable. Dr. Goh Keng Swee, Finance Minister, realises it and so, no doubt, do many of the other members of the People's Action Party (PAP) Government at ministerial level but many of the rank and file are still too intent in working off their hatred of anything foreign (Western) to accept it wholeheartedly. Anyway, this week has seen a few hopeful announcements. The Ministry of Finance announced that work will begin in June on an oil refinery that will provide jobs for between two and three hundred workers. Sir Alexander MacFarquhar, Far East representative of the UN Technical Assistance Board, who was visiting Singapore, promised to try and arrange for a survey team to examine another scheme to set up a \$600 million steel mill. Furthermore, he said that a second survey would be carried out to determine what industries are viable in Singapore and likely to attract investment. Lastly, the Ministry of Finance announced the floating of a \$5 million limited company which will establish a steel rolling mill and ship breaking yard. But nothing more has been heard of the Economic Development Board which was formed some months ago and which was

going to be the master-mind behind economic planning in the island-state. Nor has there been a word about the five-year development programme also first mentioned at the beginning of the year.

In his budget speech for 1960, Dr. Goh spoke of a form of common market between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. Nothing was heard of this either, until the subject was brought up again by Enche Mohamed Khir bin Johari, the Federation's Minister of Commerce and Industry, at the recent ECAFE Conference in Bangkok. Enche Khir announced that his Government had approved the setting up of a joint Singapore-Federation Committee to discuss the subject. But it is already clear that Singapore must accept certain conditions before the dream of a common market can become a reality. It is likely that Singapore will have to agree to pay the same customs tariffs as those in the Federation. On account of its free port status, its customs duties are now considerably less. But a compromise is possible. If Singapore is understandably opposed to losing its profitable entrepot trade, it could declare a free port zone primarily for this purpose. But more awkward problems will arise if the Federation wants to manufacture goods in which Singapore has a substantial entrepot interest, such as, for instance, textiles. The siting of factories to supply the needs of both territories is also likely to be a matter for hard bargaining. But all of these problems can be overcome if both sides sit down to the coming talks in a spirit of neighbourly give-and-take. But this neighbourly spirit is more often than not conspicuous by its absence in the relations between the Federation and Singapore and there is still a tendency, rightly or wrongly, for the Federation to regard Singapore as a troublesome slick city-cousin and a hotbed of Chinese chauvinism and Communism.

The PAP Government proceeds apace with its plans to rewrite social legislation. The Pawnbrokers Ordinance has been tightened up and pawnbrokers in future will have to be content with a much smaller rate of interest than they have been getting in the past. So much smaller, in fact, that they have threatened to close shop and stop business. Money-lenders have also come in for similar treatment, and many of the South Indian money-lenders who traditionally operated this sort of business in Singapore have packed their money bags and returned to India. A new "one man one wife" law which applies to all citizens and residents except Muslims has also come into force. All marriages previously entered into according to Chinese or Hindu custom, no matter how long the persons concerned have been joined together, will now have to be officially registered under the Civil Marriage Ordinance. The Registry of Marriages is obviously going to be kept busy throughout the year dealing with this wholesale legislation of customary marriages. All who now have more than one wife will be allowed to exist in domestic plurality providing, of course, that they register all their wives under the Ordinance. But in future anyone already married who takes another wife will be liable to prosecution for bigamy.

Since the PAP came into office last May, a total of 59 employees' unions have been struck off the trade unions' register and 21 are under notice that they may be similarly dealt with. The unions have either voluntarily dissolved themselves or have been struck off the rolls because of "yellow" or "splinter" activities or both. When the PAP came into power, there were 226 registered employees' unions, 58 employers' unions and six federations. There are now 167 employees' unions, 56 employers' unions and eight federations.

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A Thousand Years of Bengali Literature

MAHESH DAS MUNDHRA

"Bengali may be said to be the most important language in India after Hindustani (Hindu or Urdu). Although it is confined to the province of Bengal and certain contiguous tracts, the literary and cultural influence exerted by Bengali on the other languages of India during recent years has been quite remarkable. Apart from the ancient and mediaeval literatures of India in Sanskrit, Pali, Old Tamil, and Early Hindi dialects, Bengali has the largest and most original literature of any Modern Indian language; and it counts among its votaries numerous poets, novelists, and other writers, of whom one, Rabindranath Tagore, has become a world-figure in literature."—Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji (1927).

BENGALI, undoubtedly, is one of the most important languages of modern India, with a rich heritage of literature that goes back to a millennium. The most ancient literature of Bengali is found in the form of poetry. The specimen of the tenth and eleventh centuries AD betray the great impact of Buddhism which was prevalent in Bengal at that time. In the *Sunya Purana* written by Ramai Pandit in the eleventh or twelfth century AD, many practices of later Buddhists have been described. And to the same early period belong the aphorisms and wise sayings of Dak and Khana which are popularly known as "Daker Bachan" and "Khanar Bachan". A poem called "Baramasi", credited to Dak, describes the cycle of the twelve calendar months. Such "Baramasi" poems are found in many Indian languages like Hindi or Oriya, as well as in English and other European languages.

Between 1200 to 1400 AD only a few Bengal writers are known. Bengal was invaded by the Moslems around 1200 AD and during this period of political upheaval a large number of works were either destroyed or taken away to Nepal, Tibet, or other areas.

In the 14th-15th centuries Chandidasa, a follower of the Sahajiya Vaishnava cult, composed hymns and songs (kirtans) about the love of Radha and Krishna. Nearly twelve hundred songs are credited to him. Modern scholars, however, hold that not all of them were written by one Chandidasa. They are believed to have been composed by several other persons right from the 14th-15th centuries to the 17th century. Whatever the case may be, the songs of Chandidasa enjoy great popularity and are recited by people throughout Bengal.

It was in the 15th century that Krittivas rendered the *Ramayana* into Bengali. Throughout the last five centuries it has enjoyed great popularity, particularly in the rural areas, and is the "Bible" of the Bengali Hindus. Even today it is the best-seller in the Bengali language and is considered to be the most beautiful gem of its literature.

Another monumental work was prepared in the 16th century by Kashiram who made a Bengali recension of the *Mahabharata* the great epic of India. In his work he introduced many mythological episodes which are not to be found in the original epic or any other recension made before him. The passages where he has introduced these episodes are the most remarkable and show his genius.

Among the worshippers of Sakti, Mukundarama (16th century), was the first famous Sakta poet; Ramaprasad, the author of *Chandikavya*, was the famous Sakta poet of the 18th century. His songs are called "Ramaprasadi", and they are also as popular as those of Chandidasa. Because of the simplicity of their language, common people can understand them easily.

In the 18th century Bharatchandra Ray wrote *Annadamangal-Kavya* (1752), which is also known as *Kalikamangal*. Many of his sentences are quoted as proverbs in Bengali.

After Bharatchandra Ray, Bengali literature took a new direction. Under the influence of English rule many social, economic, and cultural changes came into existence. In 1799 the Rev. William Carey went to live in Serampore with a group of followers, where he established a printing press. The books he published gave much impetus to Bengali prose. The opening of the Fort William College in Calcutta in 1800 revived the study of Sanskrit, and gradually Sanskrit began to pervade the Bengali writings. Raja Ram Mohan Ray's writings for social and religious reforms are examples of prose of a very high standard. It is generally considered that the 19th century renaissance in India was greatly influenced by Bengal.

Although Henry Louis Vivian Derozio did not write in Bengali, his influence on his contemporary countrymen greatly contributed to promote Bengali literature. Most of the writers who gained fame in the second half of the 19th century were either his students or persons who were inspired by his ideas. There were several others who inspired Bengali literature in the 19th century.

Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar was a scholar of Sanskrit and a champion of social and religious reform. He is called the father of modern Bengali prose.

The latter half of the 19th century is known as Madhusudan-Bankim period. Madhusudan was a scholar of classical and modern languages. His Bengali writings (he wrote in English as well) bear the stamp of his occidental studies, and his *Meghnad-badh-kavya* and *Brijangana-kavya* are considered masterpieces.

Bankimchandra is regarded as the greatest Bengali writer before Rabindranath Tagore. He wrote many novels, plays, short stories, and essays. His works inspired India's national independence movement. "Bandemataram", the famous song which he wrote in *Anandamath*, became the national song during the struggle for independence.

Dinbandhu Mitra's *Nildarpan* was a famous play of the last century which was instrumental in bringing about political consciousness amongst Indians. It was translated into English by Madhusudan. The publisher of his English translation, the Rev. James Long, who himself was a great scholar of Bengali language, was fined and sentenced to imprisonment by the British government as *Nildarpan* portrayed brutalities of British indigo planters.

Towards the end of the 19th century important changes in style occurred as the new writers of that period were trying to get rid of the Sanskrit phraseology. At the beginning of the present century Saratchandra Chattopadhyay, the king of novelists, was the greatest champion of the new style free from the unnecessary load of Sanskrit vocables. His novels and short stories deal with social problems of our age, and his works have been translated into many Indian and foreign languages.

Rabindranath Tagore, the most dominant figure of the first half of the 20th century, expressed his multi-sided genius in all the literary forms, and his name is, of course, world-famous.

The present-day writers of Bengal are enriching literature with their lavish writings on almost all the topics under the sun. A voluminous encyclopedia was published in Bengali 30 years ago by Nagendranath Basu. Later on he published a similar encyclopedia in Hindi. The Bengali lexicon compiled by Haricharan, who is now a nonagenarian, is one of the finest examples of lexicography.

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Recent Books

Living Zen by ROBERT LINNSEN (*New York: Grove Press, \$2.25*).

Thanks largely to the pioneering of Dr. D. T. Suzuki, and in this country, Mr. Christmas Humphreys, Western interest in Zen Buddhism is growing. Zen, which has been described as the "art of seeing into one's own being", is in reality the essence of Buddhism, in which doctrine and intellectual belief have been transcended and replaced by personal experience of enlightenment and comprehension of the Universe. Dr. Linszen, in this very comprehensive study, shows how Zen can be introduced into everyday life. He explains how, if Zen is approached with the average Western "intellectuality", it would seem incomprehensible and its paradoxical language merely a play on words. But with a flexibility of thought the study of Zen could be a rewarding one for those who feel the need to cultivate serenity and inner tranquility.

Cultivate Essays by A. J. ARBERRY (*George Allen & Unwin, 28s.*).

Those who have visited the tomb of Sir Richard Burton a forlorn replica of an Arab tent, carved in Italian marble, and looking strange and unreal among the white crosses and tombstones of an English suburban cemetery, must have wondered at the transient rewards of Oriental studies. As this collection of essays shows, public appreciation of scholarship, when applied to the translation of hitherto unknown Persian and Arab poets, or the compiling of dictionaries of Arabic or Hebrew was not always forthcoming, and the great names among British Orientalists—Simon Ockley, Sir William Jones, E. W. Lane, E. H. Palmer, E. G. Brown and R. A. Nicholson, whose stories are told here, were probably more highly appreciated in the East than in the West. However, that in itself must be reckoned as perhaps the truest measure of their success, unaccompanied as it mostly was by monetary gain.

The essays make fascinating reading. The lives of each of these seven men (Prof. Arberry includes his own story since he was encouraged and supported in his own endeavours by H. N. Nicholson—that remarkable scholar of Arabic and Persian who made massive contributions to Islamic studies, highly appreciated throughout the Muslim world, yet never once visited the East) are as varied as their personalities. Some are quiet and uneventful like Nicholson's, or Simon Ockley's who never voyaged beyond his native land, while others were pioneers and adventurers, who risked their lives to further knowledge, such as Edward Palmer, the brilliant linguist, who was assassinated by Bedouin whilst on a Government mission.

What emerges from these essays are portraits of remarkable men—remarkable not only for scholarship but for their humanism. This, very often in an age where bigotry was predominant. It took courage, to say as William Jones said in 1787, "I am no Hindu: but I hold the doctrine of the Hindus concerning a future state to be incomparably more rational, more pious and more likely to deter men from vice than the horrid opinions inculcated on punishments *without end*." The catalogue of Jones's achievements is almost unbelievable. He made significant discoveries in botany, was an able mathematician and the Western study of Hindu music regards him as its pioneer. He wrote papers on ornithology, zoology—all

this in addition to his importance as a philologist, for he wrote verse not only in English and French, but also in Latin, Greek, Italian, Persian and Sanskrit, and at a time when classical studies were paramount, dared to put Persian literature on the same level as Greek and Latin.

When an eminent Persian scholar, Mirza Muhammad of Qazvin, writes of 'The Persian Scholar Edward Browne': "His love for the world of Islam in general and for Persian and the Persians in particular, truly had no bounds. There was to be observed in it no material, practical aim, such as position or wealth or politics or serving the interests of his own country or the like. It had no other motivation but heartfelt emotion and spiritual attraction, that is to say, love for whatever is good and fine and lovely and true and aversion from all that was opposed to these. Indeed, the existence of Browne was for Persian, a God-given blessing," we can feel that the tireless labours of these scholars whose portraits are so lovingly drawn by Professor Arberry have not gone unrewarded.

The Sufi Message of Hazrat Inayat Khan (Vol. 1) (*Barrie & Rockliff, 25s.*).

This volume is the first of a series which will include all the works intended for publication of the great Sufi mystic, Hazrat Inayat Khan who came to the West in 1910 and lectured and taught here until his death in 1926. The teachings and discourses were taken down as Hazrat Inayat Khan spoke, and the flow of mystical inspiration and poetical expression has thus been left intact, showing his vivid personality and his subtle sense of humour.

The softening influence of Sufi mysticism, coupled with its widely ranging acceptance of God, as a universal God, be it Allah, Brahma, Khuda or Bhagwan, and its appreciation of the outward as well as the inward aspects of beauty in all forms, had a profound effect on Islam. Much of Sufi thought has been transmitted in metaphysical poetry, in which the union of the Soul with God is the goal of all human endeavour. To the question asked of oneself "Why am I here?" there can be many answers, according to one's experience and intelligence. Dismissing the obvious worldly reasons for justifying our existence, Hazrat Inayat Khan says "one is led to suppose and believe that virtue is the only thing that matters in life, but it will be found that the greater number of sufferers from moral hallucination are to be met with among the self-righteous". Life, as the Sufi sees it, is a journey from one pole to another, and the perfection of the conscious life is the final destiny of the imperfect life.

So clearly are the ideas of Hazrat Inayat Khan propounded that even without any knowledge of mysticism, or any special interest in the subject, one could open this book anywhere and find answers to the "Where?" and "Whyfore?" of everyday life, expressed with charity and understanding of every kind of human difficulty.

Origin and Development of Caste by G. K. PILLAI (*Allahabad: Kitab Mahal, Rs. 5.00*).

Caste and India—the two are synonymous in the Western mind—yet the nature of the caste system is not always understood. Its disadvantages are obvious enough, but it is not usually known that caste can be flexible as well as rigid, and that within the hierarchy of caste there can be doubt as to the exact position of a particular caste. This idea of hierarchy underlies Indian social life—not only the castes which form the hierarchy, but every activity connected with the castes is categorized. Occupations, marriage, the preparation of food,

the food itself, all are divided into "high" or "low" based on the concept of "pollution".

The origin of the caste system can be traced back to the herd instinct, and the totemism of the aboriginal tribes which surrounded the functions of eating and of marrying. The author of the present book maintains that caste is a form of "social assortment" based on an innate desire among primitive people to group together for self protection. In the totemic days, these castes specialised in food production and later were expanded to cover arts, crafts and sciences.

After the advent of religious thought, people were divided into believers and non-believers, and differences between the castes, hierarchical differences, were developed until the caste system became, during the rise to power of the Brahmins, a "monster with a thousand eyes and a thousand arms" and even frightened the Brahmins themselves. Before the days of Brahminisation, caste was no disqualification—it was a privilege and a form of social security. Even with all its defects and discriminations, the system upheld the Hindu traditions in arts, crafts industry and science. Its role has always been to maintain the *status quo*, and it has held its own throughout centuries of invasions and foreign rule. In fact, during British rule, the advent of industrial life, the development of communications, the introduction of the printing press and newspapers, all gave caste an opportunity of developing along new lines, and caste journals, hotels, banks, cooperative societies came into being. Today every politician knows that the support of the most powerful local caste is indispensable—and a candidate chosen from the wrong caste is certain to be unlucky. In 1957, the Congress Working Committee expressed its great concern at the rise of communal, caste and sub-caste feelings in the country, and this has since been echoed by almost all political leaders.

In face of the industrialisation of India, and the consequent absorption of workless villagers into factory life, it can be assumed that some of the caste restrictions connected with pollution and inter-dining will be removed, but caste itself, as shown by its surprising resilience, will take a long time to succumb. As Mr. Pillai points out, the depressed classes are as unwilling as the higher castes to set aside restrictions, and since no lower caste person is willing to give equality to one lower than himself, this peculiar psychology stands in the way of levelling up processes.

This book is a well-documented account of a subject which is all too often reduced to its lowest terms. After reading it, one can appreciate the historical, social and religious development of caste, and the difficulties which confront the social reformer in India, today as much as yesterday.

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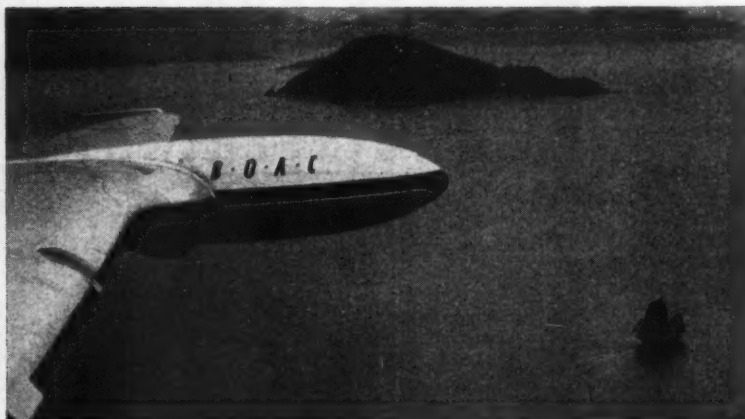
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Economics and Trade



Contrasts in 20th century travel in Asia: a Comet 4 jetliner at Hong Kong over a local trading junk

AIR LINKS IN ASIA

TO say that trade depends on transport may over-simplify the role of transport in 20th century commerce; but the term hardly exaggerates it. Ever since trading between nations began, it has depended on the ability to move the goods cheaply and securely to the buyer. For centuries the scope of trade from any one nation was limited by the distance that a bullock cart could travel, or the furthest limit to which a skipper dared sail his ship. Today, after 30 years of constant development, the basic pattern of commercial aviation in East Asia is firmly established as an essential part of the region's transport system.

The growth of British civil aviation, which for approximately 30 years pioneered long-distance international air routes of the world, was largely stimulated by the need for high-speed strategic links with the Commonwealth countries, both for passengers and mail; and it was under this stimulus that Imperial Airways, a predecessor of BOAC, laid the groundwork of the present comprehensive system of East-West long-haul air routes. It was mainly from these foundations that many current regional and local services have spread.

Today the air routes of the East fall into roughly three patterns, each of which has a fundamental part to play in the economic development of the area.

The first is what may be termed inter-continental services, linking Asia with the relatively remote areas of Europe and North America. In the context of 20th century commerce, their importance is hard to over-estimate; with the expanding interest of European and American industry in Asian development, personal contact between western directors and staffs of local factory or assembly plants is regarded as fundamental. Equally important is the ability to move key personnel, both on regular tours of duty and on the many occasions when the services of a specialist may be needed for a brief but urgent visit. Also vital is the existence of mail services whose speed makes it possible for commercial documents to reach their destinations in days or hours. The sheer size and scope of modern business has outstripped the methods of a more leisurely age.

While long-distance air travel is usually regarded in terms of passengers, a growing share of world airline business comes from the carriage of cargo, in literally hundreds of different forms. Air

cargo has been called "the sleeping giant" of civil aviation, largely because it undoubtedly has a potential which has hardly been scratched at present. Even so, thousands of tons of freight are being carried every year along the world's air routes. Samples of tea, sugar, coffee or rubber, for example, can reach a customer in Europe or the United States within days of leaving a warehouse. Cargoes of this kind, incidentally, do not stop short at samples—two tons of prime Indian tea recently took wing from Calcutta to London in the hold of a BOAC Britannia, arriving in a style which emulated the China clippers of a century ago. Wide ranges of manufactured goods are ideally suited to air transport—a point of great importance not only to the established and traditional industries of the Orient but to the vast number of new ones which are springing up in the developing manufacturing centres of Asia. Carpets from India and Persia, sheepskins from Pakistan, toys and plastic goods, radio sets and saucepans from Hong Kong, are now only hours away from their markets, thanks to the speed of air transport.

A second group of air services fall under the heading of regional routes. These services, operated partly by the long-distance international airlines, such as BOAC, Air India and Qantas, and partly by some of the well-established regional carriers to be found in the Far East and Australia, have assumed great importance within a relatively few years, concerned as they are largely with the carriage of passengers and goods on routes between the great trading cities of Asia. For the manufacturer at Tokyo or Hong Kong or the merchant at Singapore or Calcutta—though he may never travel to the western hemisphere—first-class air services to markets in Asia are of much importance. He expects, and finds, a network of high-speed air services to carry himself and his produce where he wants it when he wants it. To thousands of businessmen and industrialists in the East, flying between, say, Tokyo and Singapore, with a return journey via Bangkok and Manila, is a commonplace experience.

A third type of service, which has also made great strides in Asia in recent years, is the local service, linking two or more points which may be relatively close as the crow flies but still involve a long and difficult journey by land. In many areas the small or fairly small airliner, able to operate economically from

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airfields far from the trunk air routes, has brought a completely new kind of mobility to many industries such as mining and oil.

While the most immediate impact of air transport on the economy of an expanding area such as East Asia is in the business and industrial fields, there is another field in which it promises, potentially at any rate, to make a significant impression—tourism. In this respect, there is every reason to hope that air travel can create a completely new industry for many of the beautiful but so far undeveloped lands of the East. Already air services have opened up new tourist possibilities for the Far East, largely by the carriage of growing numbers of North American visitors to destinations such as Japan, Hong Kong and Bangkok; but the potentialities are far greater, perhaps, than have yet been appreciated in many of the territories concerned. It needs little effort of the imagination, to visualise, for instance, the possibilities of tourist air travel between Australia, a country with a high standard of living and a growing population, and South Asia. Tourism, in fact, is a classic example of how the mere existence of intensive air services can stimulate the formation of an entire new industry.

A secondary, but still important aspect of the impact of air travel on Asia is the creation of large numbers of jobs, many of them highly skilled, in airline operation and administration. In this respect BOAC has aimed for many years at a policy of employing local staffs wherever possible, in both technical and commercial posts.

This is one way in which international airlines bring a flow of capital and skilled training to countries where both are needed. Another lies in the close relationships which exist with many regional and local airlines. Both BOAC and Qantas, for example, have associations with a number of Asian airlines, to whom they can bring a wealth of experience and technical knowledge.

It is with much pride that BOAC, as a leading air carrier on the routes between Europe and the East, looks back on the 40 years or so which have wrought such a marked transformation in the pattern of Asian communications. Ever since air transport took its first halting steps in the years following World War I, British aviation has led the way in commercial developments; from the inauguration of the first passenger services to India in 1929, by Imperial Airways, to the birth of the jet age a quarter of a century later. Throughout those years Imperial Airways and its successor, BOAC, have worked steadily to extend and improve air communications.

Today, with a fleet of jetliners offering high-frequency services to almost every major point in the East, it has played its part in another major step forward—the creation of the new partnership of three of the greatest of the world's international airlines—Air International, Qantas Empire Airways, and BOAC. These carriers, by pooling their services, fly over many of the world's principal air routes and can look forward with confidence to further years of constructive development of the air communications of Asia.

THE WINGS OF PAKISTAN

NO other nation in the Commonwealth, perhaps in the world, depends so much on air transport for its existence as does Pakistan, for air transport is really the only tangible means of communications between the two wings of the country. Pakistan had to build its air transport system out of virtually nothing, a task which was all the more difficult, as the scientific and technical knowledge and experience, as regards civil aviation, were meagre to say the least.

After the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the first air transport operations were undertaken by Orient Airways, but the growing needs of the country demanded a wider route network and faster and more frequent schedules than the meagre resources of Orient Airways could provide. In 1951, therefore, the Government of Pakistan organised Pakistan International Airlines, and in June 1954 began operating a non-stop service linking Karachi in West Pakistan with Dacca in East Pakistan—a distance of 1,463 miles. This service provided the first direct communication between the two wings of the country and its operation is still one of the most important tasks undertaken by PIA.

In February 1955, PIA began long distance services with a weekly flight between Karachi and London via Cairo. It was also in 1955 that PIA and Orient Airways were merged, thus making PIA the sole air transport undertaking in Pakistan. This was an important step forward in the development of civil aviation in the country and one that helped to stimulate Pakistan's industrial progress, particularly in those areas ill-served by other means of transport. Services were developed, efficiency improved and a first step taken into the jet age with an order for a fleet of Vickers Viscount 815 prop-jet airliners.

The first Viscount was delivered to PIA in January 1959 and went into operation a month later. It proved to be a popular aircraft and traffic increased on all the routes it served. Late in 1959 an order was placed for a fleet of three Rolls-Royce Dart powered Fokker Friendships, which offer the same standard of comfort as the ViscounTs but are more suited to the requirements of short haul operations from small airfields. These aircraft will be put into operation this year and will serve the routes radiating

from Dacca and Chittagong which are now being served by Douglas DC-3s.

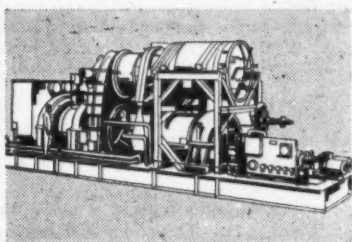
It was also in 1959 that the new generation of big jet airliners came into general passenger service and it became obvious that the Super Constellation operated by PIA between London and Karachi could not compete with the new jets. To acquire giant jet airliners outright would have been a severe strain on the economy of PIA, but to do without them altogether would mean the death knell of the Airline. As a first step into the pure jet era, therefore, PIA concluded an agreement with Pan American World Airways whereby PIA would be able to provide an international jet service without too heavy an expenditure.

Pan American agreed in the first stage, from March to October 1960 to provide a Boeing 707 Intercontinental airliner to operate a weekly London to Karachi service via Rome, Beirut and Teheran. PIA cabin crews began immediate training for service from the start of the jet operations. The training of pilots and engineers being more complex, however, it was decided to accept Pan American operating crews at first and then to phase in PIA crews as they qualified on the new aircraft.

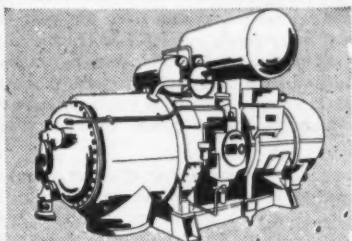
The second stage of the jet programme begins in October, and thus in less than ten years PIA will have progressed to compete with the most experienced airlines in the world, when PIA will have complete lease of a Boeing 707 and this will probably operate three return flights a week over the Karachi-London route. New stations will be added to the route, and if there is sufficient demand one weekly flight will be an express service, perhaps operating nonstop or with one stop only. The operation of Boeings on the important Karachi-Dacca route is under consideration, and study is being made of the desirability of extending the PIA network to the Far East.

Progress is being made in all aspects of PIA operation. Intensive training programmes are in force for flying and ground staff. New engineering and test facilities have been completed, regularity has been greatly improved to the point where 80 per cent of all flights depart on time—a percentage equal to the best achieved by the world airlines. Encouraging, too, is the fact that PIA turned its losses of 1958 into profits in 1960.

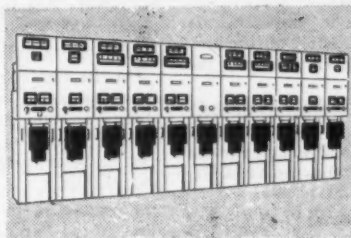
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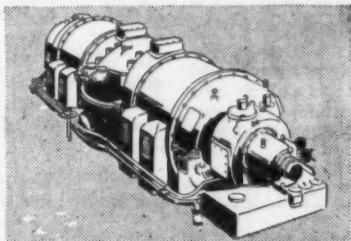
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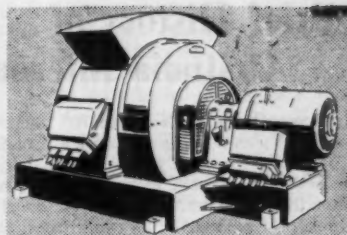
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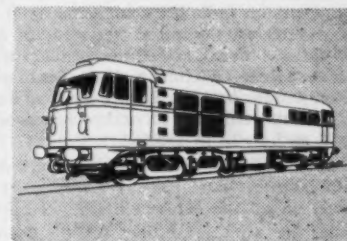
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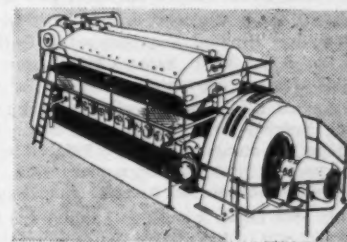
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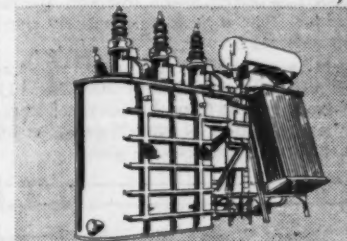
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A Brief History of Air-India International

THIS month the Rolls Royce 707 Intercontinental of Air-India will be seen landing regularly at London Airport from Bombay on a five days per week schedule. Next month will see three of these services extended in a westerly direction from London to New York. Thus in the short space of two months Air-India will have made its two greatest strides forward.

This expansion and consolidation of the existing route network is all the more remarkable since Air-India did not commence operations until 1948, for it was in this year that Air India was officially established with the support of the Government of India. In June of that year India's first international service to London was inaugurated—an occasion of sufficient importance for the Government of India to commemorate it with a special stamp issue. As against the initial frequency of one flight a week, with stops only at Cairo and Geneva, the frequencies were stepped up to two, three and four flights a week, extending the service to other important cities in Europe such as Rome, Paris and Dusseldorf. Within India, the services were extended to include Calcutta in 1950 and Delhi in 1952.

January 1950 saw the introduction of a new service from Bombay to Nairobi (East Africa) via Karachi and Aden, providing the only direct link between India and East Africa.

Under the Air Corporation Act, the Government of India took over control of Air-India International in August 1953 and AII thus became a nationalised Corporation.

Five Super Constellations were acquired from Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, and with the increase in the number of aircraft it was possible for AII to introduce new services.

July 1954 saw the inauguration of a service to Singapore via Madras, thus bringing Singapore within 9½ flying hours of Bombay. As from April 1956, Super Constellation aircraft replaced the Constellation on this route.

In August 1954 a new service to the Far East was introduced, linking Bombay with Bangkok and Hong Kong. The extension to Tokyo was completed in May 1955. The second weekly service to Tokyo was introduced in January 1956. AII thus provides the only direct link between Bombay and Tokyo.

From four flights a week to London, the frequency was stepped up to five and to the present figure of seven Super Constellations. Dusseldorf, since May 1955, has been served twice a week, and two new stops at Beirut and Zurich were introduced in July 1955. Damascus and Prague were included in April 1956 respectively.

October 5th, 1956, was yet another landmark in the annals of the Corporation's expanding operations. On this day, the service to Australia was inaugurated.

From small beginnings in 1948, Air-India International can now boast of being Asia's foremost airline, taking special pride in the fact that it is almost entirely operated and directed by Indian nationals.

Air-India is now looking forward to a mutually prosperous and happy relationship with both BOAC and Qantas as a result of a pool agreement and from this advanced stage of development it can only be a question of time before Air-India becomes the first Asian airline to encircle the globe.

Swissair's Far East Route

SWISSAIR, the national airline of Switzerland, is now looking back over more than two years of successful operation of its route from Switzerland to the Far East via South-East Asia. The careful preparation and commercial planning that preceded the setting up of the route and the timetable, providing excellent connections not only in Switzerland but at other points served, have consistently resulted in satisfactory utilisation of the capacity offered.

At present Swissair operates two flights weekly to Tokyo from Zurich and Geneva. The Tuesday flight calls at Beirut, Karachi, Bombay, Bangkok and Manila, and the Friday flight at Cairo, Bahrain, Karachi, Calcutta, Bangkok and Hong Kong. At the time of writing, however, Swissair is awaiting government approval for its plans to increase the Far East services from two to four flights weekly, by operating a third weekly flight to Tokyo from May 22nd and a second weekly flight to Bombay from July 21st. The additional Tokyo service will leave Europe on Sundays and call at Cairo, Karachi, Bombay, Bangkok and Manila.

The new Bombay service, to be called the "Bombay Express", operates eastbound on Thursday and will call only at Cairo on the way. When the new flights come into operation, some changes in routings will take place, so that Calcutta and Hong Kong will be served Tuesday and Friday, and Manila on Sunday.

Services are operated with weather-radar equipped DC-7Cs and DC-6Bs, providing first and tourist class. In first class, reclining sleeper-seats are available at no additional fare and sleeping berths can be had for a small extra charge. Swissair has a very fine reputation for its catering on board and goes to considerable trouble to provide for its passengers a meal service in the tradition of a high-class hotel or restaurant in Switzerland.

On the Far East route, à-la-carte meals are available for first-class passengers and requests for special dishes for religious or dietary reasons are met whenever possible. Swissair has its own flight kitchens in Karachi and also buys meals prepared to its specifications from high-class restaurants in Bombay, Hong Kong and Manila.

To attract more traffic, Swissair will offer reduced economy class fares to the Far East from October 1st. Reductions will range up to 10½ per cent compared with present tourist fares. From May 1st group travel discounts are available for ships' crews flying from Europe to the Far East. They range, in the case of India and Pakistan, up to 45 per cent compared with normal one-way tourist fares. Groups have to consist of not less than 15 or 20 passengers depending on destination. All these fare reductions have still to be approved by governments.

Cargo is carried on every Swissair flight to the Far East and this traffic, too, has shown considerable progress over the past two years. In 1959, 24 per cent more goods were carried on this route than in 1958. Switzerland's traditional exports, such as watches, instruments, and chemical and pharmaceutical products make up most of the cargo carried eastbound, while the main goods west-bound include radio transistors, optical goods, machinery and textiles.

Another big step forward in Swissair's Far East services will come about the middle of next year with the introduction of Convair Coronado jetliners. Swissair has seven of these jets on order; powered by turbofan engines, they are capable of flying at 635 m.p.h. and are the fastest commercial airliners in the world. Two of the seven Coronados will be leased to Scandinavian Airlines System, under the two airlines' cooperation agreement of 1958. Swissair will then be able to offer all-jet services from the UK to the Far East, since flights will connect with Caravelle jets already linking London with Zurich from this month.

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INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL NOTES

CHINA—BIGGEST WOOL TOP IMPORTER

During the first two months of 1960 UK total exports of wool tops reached 18 million lb. valued at £8.4 million as against 14.5 million lb. worth £5.7 during the corresponding period of 1959.

In 1960 China became the biggest market of the UK wool tops industry and during the first two months of 1960 UK exports to this market increased to 2.7 million lb. valued at £1.1 (0.4 million lb. valued at £102,729 during the first two months of 1959.)

The following table shows the development of UK wool tops exports to the other main market of Asia and the Far East:

	1959	1960
	(first two months of year)	
	£	£
India	734,589	733,880
Pakistan	273,896	128,277
Hong Kong	28,250	85,950
Japan	349,867	325,541

UK AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY'S EXPORTS TO THE EAST

In 1959 UK global exports of aircraft and parts (excluding engines, electrical parts and rubber tyres) amounted to over £84 million. About one-quarter of this went to Asian markets, including India, £17.1 million; Pakistan, £2.6 million; Ceylon, £0.7 million; Burma, £0.6 million. In addition, exports to Australia were valued at £4.3 million.

During the first two months of 1960 these exports to India were valued at £2.1 million, and some small deliveries went to Pakistan and Burma. Exports to Australia totalled £0.2 million.

Exports of aircraft engines, complete and parts, totalled £10.4 million during the first two months of 1960 and included exports to India to the amount of £1.2 million and to Australia of £0.2 million.

Apart from exporting to Asian countries, some leading UK aircraft manufacturers have agreements for the manufacture of their types under licence in India.

"ARCHDALE" MACHINES AT EXHIBITION

At the forthcoming International Machine Tool Exhibition to be held at Olympia, London, June 25 to July 8, 1960, James Archdale & Co. Ltd., a member of the Staveley Coal & Iron Co. Ltd. Group, will show a wide range of their machine tools, including new medium duty mechanical pre-select radial drilling machine, radial drilling machine with hydraulic pre-select saddle and traverse base, vertical and horizontal spindle coordinate drilling machines, rotary automatic drilling machines, and several new types of horizontal and vertical milling machines.

NEW KUALA LUMPUR AIRPORT

A new big and modern airport is to be built in the vicinity of Kuala Lumpur. The completion of this project will take about three years, and is estimated to cost \$M 50 million. The new airport will be able to handle the biggest jetliners.

NORWAY'S INCREASED EXPORTS TO CHINA

In 1959 Norway's exports to China and Outer-Mongolia reached the value of 54.2 N.Kr. as against 34.2 million N.Kr. during 1958. Norway's imports from these countries were valued at 18.5 million in 1959 as against 19.5 million N.Kr. in 1958.

INDIAN ALUMINIUM FACTORY

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, on March 22, performed the earth-breaking ceremony of the Rs. 200 million (£15m.) aluminium factory at Pipri, near the Rihand Dam in Mirzapur district.

Named Hindustan Aluminium Corporation Ltd., the project is the result of collaboration between the Kaiser Organization of the USA and Mr. G. D. Birla, the Indian industrialist. Situated in the rich bauxite belt of the Vindhya Mountains, the proposed aluminium project is said to be the third major industry in the private sector in Uttar Pradesh. When the plant, which is expected to produce about 20,000 tons of aluminium, goes into production it will open new avenues for ancillary industries.

JOINT INDONESIAN-GERMAN TRADING CO.

After negotiations which have been going on since 1958, between a group of Hamburg firms and the P.P.N. Baru (Indonesian New Central State Estate Agency), the Hamburg-Indonesian Import Company has been established in the West German port.

The new company will sell in Western Europe the products of Indonesian State-owned estates such as tea, coffee, palm-oil, palm kernels and latex. It is competent to undertake transactions for the whole of Europe and will possibly commence selling other Indonesian commodities in the near future.

TRAINING BOMBAY ENGINEERS

Perkins Engines Ltd., the Peterborough diesel engine company, are assisting the Bombay State Road Transport Corporation in a plan to train qualified engineers and mechanics to maintain more than 3,000 Perkins-powered vehicles operated by the corporation. The corporation has established two service and apprentice training schools, one at its central workshops at Dapodi, Poona and the other at the regional workshops at Ahmedabad. The British company has supplied a number of sectionalised and statically mounted operational engines and other instructional equipment, and has also loaned service instructors to assist in the formation of the schools.

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BEN LINE ORDERS ANOTHER LINER

The Ben Line Steamers Ltd. placed an order for a fast diesel cargo-passenger liner. It is for the first time that the Ben Line have ordered a diesel powered vessel, and they have selected a ten-cylinder Sulzer turbo charged diesel built by David Rowan & Co. Ltd., Glasgow, which will develop 13,500 B.H.P. to give the liner a service speed of over 19 knots. The ship will be built by Charles Connell & Co. Ltd., Scotstoun.

CREDITS FOR FORMOSA

The US Development Loan Fund granted a \$2 million loan to the Taiwan Telecommunications Administration to assist the installation of a backbone microwave radio system. The system will extend 218 air-line miles and will link the cities along its route for long-distance telephone, telegraph, and leased-circuit services.

\$10 million loan was granted to the privately owned China Development Corporation which will in turn extend loans for the establishment, expansion or modernisation of privately owned industrial plant in Formosa.

ECAFE SESSION CONCLUDES IN BANGKOK

Shortly before it ended its annual session in Bangkok on March 21 the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East approved a resolution intended to put new drive behind economic co-operation between the countries of the region.

The Commission recommended these countries to investigate specific proposals that might be developed as joint regional projects such as surveys of plans for new industries, in particular the manufacture of machine tools, the setting up of industrial research and training institutes and the mechanization of small industries.

The Commission appealed to the industrially advanced countries of the world to make it possible for the ECAFE region to increase its exports, and in particular not only exports of primary products but also of Asian semi-finished and finished products; and to facilitate international agreements for the stabilization of raw material prices.

ECAFE's proposals for an Asian highway that would link existing roads all the way from Turkey to Singapore, were endorsed. To develop tourist trade, Asian governments were urged to declare 1961 as a "Visit-the-Orient" year. The Asian population conference, proposed earlier, is to be held towards the end of 1962, at a place still to be decided.

Additional offers for contributions to the Mekong project were announced by the United Kingdom (£110,000) and Japan. ECAFE's next annual session will be held in India, in response to an invitation from the Indian Government.

Company Meeting

British-American Tobacco Company Limited

SALES INCREASE MAINTAINED

The fifty-seventh Annual General Meeting was held on March 24 in London. Sir Duncan Oppenheim in the course of his speech said:

There was a moderate increase in the total volume of sales compared with the previous year but the pattern was not a consistent one throughout the Group. Competition in the industry continues to increase and whilst, in some countries, substantial gains have been made against competition, in others sales have been lost. Moreover, where competition is active, increased sales are not necessarily reflected in increased profits, since substantial expenditure must be incurred on advertising and in launching new brands to meet competition. However, the Company has the resources to meet the prospect of increasing competition with confidence.

A more serious factor is the effect of increasing taxation on tobacco products. In certain countries where our proportion of the market has been maintained, the volume of sales has been lower, the total consumption having been reduced as a result of heavy increases in tobacco taxation. I think it fair to say that the burden of taxation on the tobacco industry is one of the main reasons why world consumption of tobacco products is not increasing at a faster rate.

There has been a welcome reduction in the charge for United Kingdom taxation, after taking into account double taxation relief, due in part to a reduction in the standard rate of income tax in last year's Budget, but in the main to the reduced charge for United Kingdom Profits Tax, the flat rate of 10% applying to the full year compared with six months of the year to September 30, 1958.

Trading Results

Allowing for a change in the method of conversion of foreign currencies, the

Group Net Profit for the year shows an increase of £2,648,000, of which £1,268,000 is applicable to the proportion, including dividends from Subsidiaries, dealt with in the Holding Company's Accounts. Dividends from Subsidiaries include dividends paid by Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation. At the Annual General Meeting in 1952, the Chairman referred to the US dollar loan owing by Brown & Williamson which originated during the War and was refinanced in 1946 on conditions which restricted the Company's right to pay dividends. In view of the continued expansion of Brown & Williamson's business, it was subsequently found necessary to increase the amount of loan finance of that Company and at the same time to extend the period over which repayment is to be made, so that the final repayment instalment does not now fall due until 1979. Under the terms of this refinancing, Brown & Williamson was enabled to pay dividends subject to some reasonable restrictions and has been doing so for some years past.

With regard to the future: there has been little change in the Group's trading position since last year and the rate of increase in total sales has been maintained. I do not look for any startling developments during the rest of the year. Subject, therefore, to any changes in taxation of Company profits in the coming Budget, I would expect the share of the Group Net Profit dealt with in the Accounts of the Holding Company to be no less than for the year to September 30, 1959, and I believe that it will be possible to maintain a total distribution of 2/- free of income tax per 10/- of Ordinary Stock. The increase in the first interim to 7d. free of income tax had no significance other than a step towards evening out the total dividend payments over the year.

The Report was adopted.

MARCONI AGREEMENT WITH INDIA

An agreement has been signed in New Delhi between the Indian Government and Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. for co-operation in the local manufacture under licence of equipment of Marconi design. The agreement, which provides also for technical assistance and the supply of materials and components, will form the basis for Indian manufacture of equipment in the aeronautical radio, sound and television broadcasting, communications and radar fields.

PAKISTAN-INDIA TRADE AGREEMENT

Pakistan and India signed a Trade Agreement on March 21 in New Delhi providing for mutual "most favoured nation" treatment in the commercial sphere.

The agreement includes two protocols, one of which supersedes the limited payments agreement signed in Karachi on December 3 last year. The value of commodities to be exchanged under this protocol has been raised from Rs. 20 million to Rs. 41 million. Pakistan will supply India with jute cuttings of the value of Rs. 10 to 15 million, and India will supply Pakistan with iron and steel worth Rs. 10 million.

The two Governments have also entered into special arrangements by means of a protocol for the supply by India of coal,

hard and soft wood and stone boulders to Pakistan. Pakistan has agreed under this protocol to supply India with raw jute. India has agreed to make available to Pakistan, by rail and by sea, an additional quantity of 30,000 tons of coal per month over and above the figure of 100,000 tons per month to both wings of Pakistan in accordance with the provisions of the last trade agreement. Pakistan will supply additional quantities of raw cotton to India worth Rs. 5 million.

POLISH-AFGHAN TRADE

As part of a long-term agreement concluded in Kabul between Poland and Afghanistan in 1956, a protocol specifying the range of goods exchange between both countries in 1960 was signed in Warsaw recently. The value of mutual turnover was set at £2 million for each side.

The main items of Polish exports to Afghanistan are composed of complete industrial plant (\$400,000); machinery and equipment, and electro-technical equipment (\$580,000). Also important are motorization equipment (\$200,000); chemicals including pharmaceuticals and dyes (\$200,000); and fabrics and ready-made clothes (\$250,000). In addition, Polish exports to Afghanistan include surgical instruments, rolled products, building materials, leather and rubber products, glass, china and other goods.

Half of the Polish imports from Afghanistan consists of cotton. The remaining imported goods are: wool (\$250,000); oil seeds (\$300,000); fresh fruits of various kinds (\$175,000); goat, sheep and lamb hides, and intestines for sausage casings.

INDIA TO PRODUCE MORE COAL

Some of the steps taken by the Government of India to increase the country's coal production were outlined by the Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, Sardar Swaran Singh.

Last year's production stood at 47 million tons, 1.65 million more than in the previous year. The performance was, however, short of expectations, due mainly to cyclonic conditions prevailing in the major production areas.

Production of coal in the private sector was well over 60 per cent of the Second Plan target of an additional ten million tons. In the public sector, additional production represented an achievement of 20 per cent of the Plan target of 12 million tons. It was, however, hoped that the output of coal will reach 54 million tons in 1960-61, the last year of the Plan.

Present indications were that the target to be fixed ultimately would be of the order of 95 million tons.

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CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

THE planning and development of a country's agriculture is an even more difficult and arduous task than setting and executing targets in the industrial field. Every set-back due to unfavourable weather conditions provokes hue and cry against the planners and their "shortcomings". There is no doubt that to plan a steep increase in agricultural production in a country of China's vastness is a stupendous undertaking which is wrought with numerous hazards and difficulties.

The introduction of People's Communes in China's rural economy was sharply attacked by professional critics of the New China and was met with some scepticism even in friendly circles.

At the National People's Congress of China, held in Peking in April, Tan Chen-lin, a member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Vice-Premier of the State Council, reviewed the programme for agricultural development. The targets for high-speed development of the country's agriculture were set in the Twelve-Year Agricultural Development Programme (1956-1967), but Tan Chen-lin declared that on the basis of the achievements of the last four years it would be possible to reach the 1967 targets two or even three years ahead of time.

The country's grain output in the past four years has increased by over 95 million tons and reached 270 million tons in 1959. But as the target set in the programme was 360-375 million tons, it means that the production has still to go up by one-third. A great effort was also required to bring cotton output up to the

programme target, and to increase the production of other crops.

The main core of the development programme was a bigger yield per hectare to be achieved through improved cultivation methods, including mechanisation, use of better seeds and of more fertilisers. In addition, over 71.3 million hectares of land had been brought under irrigation, including 40.6 million hectares which could withstand absence of rain for 30 to 70 days, and large-scale improvements have been carried out for water and soil conservation as well as of large areas of lowlands subject to water-logging.

The Vice-Premier referred to varying increases in the past few years in the output of oil-bearing crops, hemp, silk, tea, sugar-bearing crops, vegetables, tobacco, fruit, medicinal plants and miscellaneous agricultural products. China's realisation of the mechanisation of agriculture was a step by step transformation, from improved farm tools and semi-mechanisation up to mechanisation. Tan Chen-lin stressed the fact that, as China had fine traditions of intensive farming, the modernisation of agricultural technique would be characterised by the integration of mechanisation with garden-style farming.

On the "controversial" subject of People's Communes the Minister declared that these have developed on the basis of the advanced type of agricultural producers' cooperatives. At the beginning of 1958 there were in China more than 74,000 cooperatives of that type, and they were amalgamated and reorganised into over 24,000 People's Communes, with each commune having an average of nearly 11,000 acres of farmland. The communes have the advantage of being "both big and public". They can thus achieve a unified arrangement of production and distribution on a greater scale than the advanced cooperatives. The latter are today not only comprehensive economic organisations in the field of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery, but also basic social organisations which integrate industry, agriculture, trade, education and defence, and are merging government administration and commune management into single units.

The importance of the communes was clearly shown by the Vice-Premier's emphasis on the fact "that the People's Commune system was the fundamental guarantee for the pre-scheduled fulfilment of the programme. It opened a broad road for the bigger development of the productive forces."

The development programme of China's agriculture is a gigantic enterprise, big successes have already been achieved in this field, but the authorities are fully aware of the necessity to mobilise even further the initiative of the Chinese population to that end.

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Colombo Plan Experts

AT the end of March this year there were 55 United Kingdom experts working in South-East Asia under the Colombo Plan. Thirty-six of them were in Commonwealth countries—13 in Pakistan, 12 in India, seven in Ceylon, and four in Malaya—and their subjects included architecture, education, industry, metallurgy, mining, transport and telephony. The remaining experts were in Burma (7), Indonesia (6), Vietnam (2), Laos (1), Cambodia (1), Nepal (1) and Thailand (1); most of them were concerned with education.

According to the Colombo Plan Information Unit, there were 427 Colombo Plan experts in the region at the end of February. Indonesia had the largest number, 120; next came the Philippines with 73; and Ceylon with 62.

Besides the United Kingdom, these experts came from Australia, Canada, India, Japan, New Zealand and the United States.

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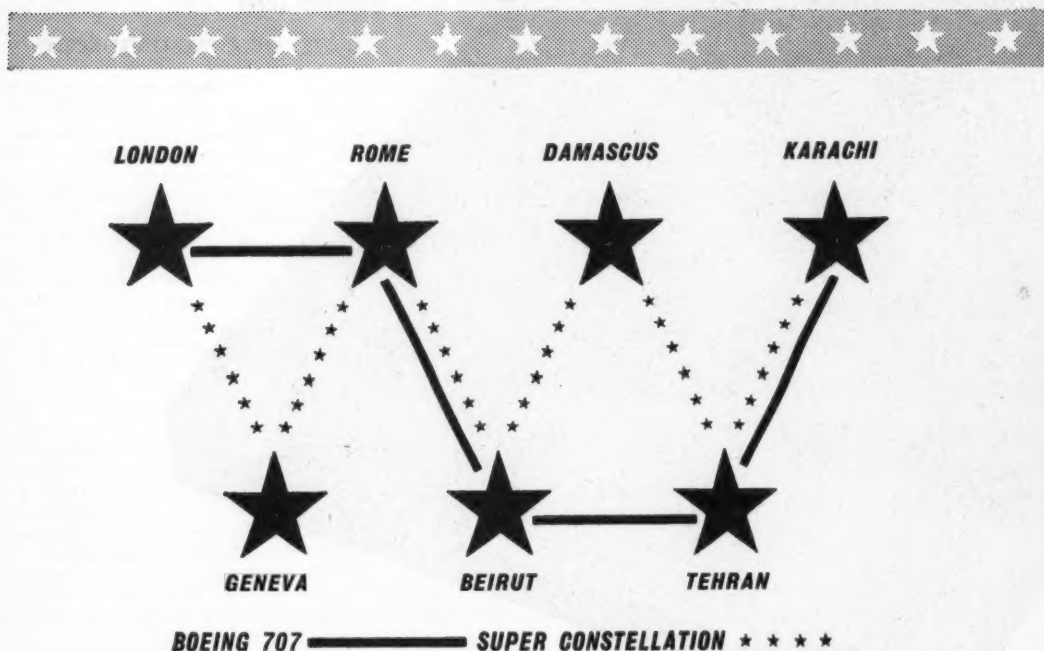
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A Handful of Rice

Rice is the world's most important food crop, after wheat. About 90 per cent of the world's rice is grown in Asia, and the majority of Asia's population lives on it. But, in the past few decades, rice has also been increasingly grown in Europe and in the Americas.



How much rice a planter obtains from his land depends to a large extent on the local climate and soil. However, the crop yield can be greatly increased by employing improved farming techniques – above all, by generous application of the right fertilizers. In short, the best rice crops can be achieved only on soil that has been well enriched with plant foods, especially with nitrogen.

The following figures tell the story briefly. In areas where the soil has received high-grade fertilization, 1 acre yields 7,100 lb. of rice. The yield from other soils may be less than 890 lb. The nations with consistently good rice crops have also been those which have led in the use of mineral fertilizers, above all of nitrogen fertilizers.

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